LIONESS CLUB OF SENIOR CITIZENS
OF MUKTANAND PARK PRESENTS

Stories For Children

By Children

(Each story with a Moral)

COVER DESIGN : Shilpa NADKARNI

Stories For Children By Children

(Each Story with a Moral)

Lioness Club of Senior Citizens
of Muktanand Park Presents

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Price : Rs. 80/-

Published by :
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101 Chuchum
82, Saraswati Road
Santacruz West
Mumbai - 400 054

Printed by :
Chintanakshar Grafics
16, Hanuman Indl. Estate
G. D. Ambekar Marg, Wadala
Mumbai - 400 031
✆ : 411 4932 Fax : 412 2376

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We Serve

Lion/DGO/UK/1769

2nd March, 2002.

Dear Lioness Geeta Nadkarni,

The efforts of Lioness Club of Senior Citizens, Muktanand Park, to bring out a book "STORIES FOR CHILDREN BY CHILDREN" is laudable. This book was made possible through the story telling Contest organized by you in December, 2001 on the subject "STORY WITH A MORAL". I congratulate you and your team for thinking of such a novel idea which would be very useful for parents as well as children.

I wish you and your club every success in your future endeavours.

Yours in Lionism,

Lion Udaykumar Vinzanekar
District Governor

To:

Lioness Geeta Nadkarni,
President ,
Lioness Club of Senior Citizens,
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Ngk2112

SERVICE THROUGH HARMONY & LEADERSHIP

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We Serve

18th February 2002

Ls. Geeta Nadkarni
President-Ls. Club of Senior Citizens

It gives me immense pleasure to learn from you that your club Lioness Club of Senior Citizens is publishing a small story book **" Stories for children by children"** which will help children for enhancing the moral values - the need of the hour, to make them better citizens for future. My heartiest congratulations for taking up this worthy project.

I am sure that in future also you will continue publishing such books with addition of more and more useful and interesting stories for children.

Let us make service through Harmony and Leadership.

With Lionesstic Regards,

Lion Shyam Malpani
Vice District Governor

SERVICE THROUGH HARMONY & LEADERSHIP

The International Association Of Lioness Club

Lioness Club Of Senior Citizens

Muktanand Park - (District 323 A 3)

2001-2003

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INTRODUCTION

The Lioness Club of Senior Citizens of Muktanand Park is an NGO, attached to District 323-A-3 of Lions Club of International. It was started in January 2001, with Social Service activities in mind. Most of our work is connected with children's educational needs.

In December 2001, among other activities, we organised a story-writing contest for school children. From the numerous entries the judges have selected over 150 stories for publication. Each child was required to send in a story, with a moral, preferably an original story. It could be a real life situation or an imagined one.

The panel of judges appointed to evaluate the stories included known teachers and writers. The list of prize-winners is being given elsewhere in this book. Two prizes have been given where there was a tie. Eleven stories have been chosen by the judges for consolation prizes.

The stories have been judged chiefly on the basis of originality in the choice of subject matter. The judges have also taken

into consideration the presentation, language skills and the length of the story, the stipulated length being 275 words. Some of the stories had to be condensed to make them suitable for publication.

Putting this collection together has been laborious but delightful and rewarding experience. I wish to thank the Principals and staff of the schools who sent in the entries and to my young participants. I am also grateful to the judges who evaluated the stories: Mrs Yashodhara Bhat, Mrs. Savitri Babulkar, Mrs. Indrani Basu, Mrs. Vinita Pandit, Mrs. Sunita Bagade and Mrs. Sudipta Druva. My special thanks for editing the stories to Mrs. Savitri Balbulkar, Mrs. Sudipta Druva and to Ms Jyoti Kotecha for preparing the floppy. I am grateful to my niece Miss Shilpa Nadkarni for designing the cover page of this book. And my thanks are due to Mr. Anant Pai of Amar Chitrakatha for his guidance and to our printer Mr. C. V. Gole for his help and co-operation. I also thank my husband Vasant for his help in editing and proof reading. Last but not the least I thank the donors, without whose donations this book would not have been published.

I hope children and adults enjoy reading these stories as much as we have enjoyed publishing them.

With regards,

Mrs. Geeta Nadkarni
President, Lioness Club of Senior Citizens
Muktanand Park

Judge's Opinion

Mrs. Yashodhara Bhat one of our judges, has, in her remarks, summed up the sentiments of the rest of the judges.

"The children have written the stories with much enthusiasm, eagerness, imagination and originality. The virtues of kindness, consideration and goodness of heart; and the importance given to human values are clearly reflected in most of the stories. These noble qualities, appreciated by children of such tender years, augur well for the future of our country.

Going through the stories was really an eye-opener, making us elders revise our opinion of the often-criticised selfish younger generation.

PRIZE WINNERS

First Prize : **Krishna Hemmady**
"Farewell to Arms"
Leelavatibai Podar School

Nishad Nadkarni
"True Friendship"
Arya Vidya Mandir

Second Prize : **Rupa Kanojiya**
"The Cobbler & the Richman"
Guru Harkrishan School

Gouri Sashital
"Guru Mantra"
Lilavatibai Podar High School"

Third Prize : **Nimit Parekh**
"The Brave Soldier"
Greenlawns School

Ela Bodas
"True to name Virasri"
Manik Vidya Mandir

Consolation Prizes

a) **Krishna Nair** (Swami Vivekanand International School)
"Best Pair of Hands".

b) **Harsh Patel** (Shree Mumbadevi Vidya Mandir)
Self Help

c) **Gaurav D'Costa** (Sacred Heart High School)
"Eye of the Beholder"

d) **Nirali Gandhi** (Greenlawns Hingh School)
Trusting People"

e) **Selwyn Braganza** (Sacred Heart High School)
"Loving & Forgiving"

f) **Rishab Nadkarni** (AVM)
"The Proud Parrot"

g) **Priyanka Tribuvan** (St. Joseph's, Juhu)
"Bird with one leg"

h) **Nidhi Sampat** (Lilavati Podar High School)
"Lucky Escape"

i) **Nikhil Mani** (Anandilal Podar High School)
"My Shocking Story"

j) **Prerna Tawde** (Manik Vidya Mandir)
"Smell & Sound"

k) **Estroz Estibeiro** (Anandilal Podar High School)
"You are my Sunshine"

We are extremely grateful to the following donors for their generous contributions to this project.

1) District Governor Lion. Udaykumar Vinzanekar
2) Vice District Governor Lion Shyam Malpani
3) Lioness Club of Juhu Road
4) Lioness Club of Lokhandwala Complex
5) Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation
6) Anand Chandavarkar Foundation
7) Shri. N. S. Rao (of Pest Control India)
8) Shri Vinod Yennemadi (of HDFC)
9) Shri Anil Bhatkal
10) Camlin Ltd
11) Raja Aederi
12) Lioness Geeta Nadkarni
13) District Chairman (Activities) Lion Pankaj Mehta
14) Shri Bhaidas Darsibhai Bhuta Trust

We are also very grateful to the following persons without whose invaluable help this project would not have been completed.

Judges of the Competition

1) Ls. Savitri Babulkar
2) Ls. Sunita Bagade
3) Ls. Indrani Basu
4) Mrs. Vinita Pandit
5) Mrs. Yashodhara Bhat
6) Mrs. Sudipta Druva

Editing and Computer work

1) Ls. Savitri Babulkar
2) Mrs. Sudipta Druva
3) Miss Jyoti Kotecha

Miscellanious Help

1) Shri Suresh Dahale of Sane Guruji High School School
2) All the Principals and Staff of the participating School
3) All the young participants
4) Ls. Lata Desai
5) Ls. Geeta Nadkarni
6) Mr. Somaiya of Nestle India

Editing and Proof Reading

Mr. Vasant V. Nadkarni & Mrs. Sunita Bagade

Designing Cover Page

Miss. Shilpa Nadkarni

Rajani Nadkarni

Secretary

Lioness Club of Senior Citizens of
Muktanand Park

Name: Karishma Hemmady

Age: 14 years

School: Lilavatibai Podar High School Santacruz (W)

Address: Bldg: 10; Apt: 16;
Saraswat Colony, Santacruz (W)
Mumbai 400054

FIRST PRIZE

Farewell to Arms

Dishkiyo, dishkiyo!! Yelled Raj, spraying a volley of bullets at me and I pretended dead...

Like every child I played "mock war". The muscleman on the frontline fascinated me. Movies that glorified war fed my fantasy. We were in the thick of such a war when Balu, the half paralyzed gardener came hobbling towards us.

"Stop! Stop! this game!" he pleaded.

We were shocked to see the play of emotions; his eyes mirrored the fear of some hidden misery. His scarred body spoke aloud the degree of pain he had endured. Nobody knew why he reacted that way.... "Children I have a story to tell you", he said. We settled around him and he began...

"I was eight years old when a war broke out in my native land. The war took a heavy toll. Towns were flattened; bodies piled high and bulldozed into mass cremation pits. Places of worship became killing grounds. Planes on the airstrip became sitting targets. Toxic clouds mushroomed everywhere. People had to take shelter in refugee camps. Survival here was difficult due to the economic crises. Hunger fed frustration. People died of disease and starvation. The smell of death hung heavy in the air. I was orphaned at the tender age of eight when my parents succumbed to starvation. I spent two years in the refugee camp doing odd jobs for the social workers. Once, when on an errand, I happened to tread on a land mine that paralyzed me. That war maimed me not only physically but also emotionally. **I LOST MY CHILDHOOD AND MY FUTURE**. Memories of war still haunt me. So naturally, I am distressed to see you playing this ugly game".

Wisdom dawned on me. I looked at my toy gun, and thought to myself that it is by no means an innocent toy for it has the lethal potential of corrupting human minds: it is a symbol of genocide.

I threw the toy gun and bid "Farewell to Arms".

Moral: Violence in any form is evil

Name: Nishad Nadkarni

Age: 14 years

School: Arya Vidya Mandir, Bandra

Std.: IX

DOB: 11th September 1987

FIRST PRIZE

True Friendship

Rishab and Rahul were my classmates and very good friends. We exchanged costly birthday gifts. Nandan joined us. He was a poor widow's son. My Granny sponsored Nandan's education because he was outstandingly brilliant. We accepted Nandan because he did our homework. He always secured the first rank and was a table-tennis champion. But he saw that I could excel him in table-tennis so he coached me sincerely, every day.

On my birthday, Nandan shyly gave me a gift saying, "My Amma made these organdy flowers specially for you. It's not costly, but it's a gift of true love and friendship. Will you accept it?"

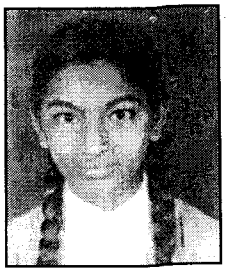
I was hesitant but Granny said "Of course, Nishad will gladly accept your gift. What's important is not the value of the gift but the thought behind it." I accepted it. Seeing my friends' costly gifts and bouquets I belittled Nandan's gift.

I said "I won't play the Interschool Table-Tennis matches because...." Nandan interrupted me. "Please, Nishad you have to represent our school. You are the best player. You can attend your friend's picnic some other time".

My friends went to the picnic but I played. Only Nandan accompanied and cheered me. I won the Trophy. Nandan was very happy for me.

Much later, I won the Juniors and Seniors State Table-Tennis Championships in the same year. So I was awarded a Special prize. Nandan's joy knew no bounds. I have kept the trophies next to Nandan's gift. I value them equally. My friends' costly bouquets have dried up but Nandan's roses of true friendship will forever bloom in my heart.

Moral: A gift of true love and friendship is more valuable than the Kohinoor Diamond.



Name: Rupa Kanojiya

Age: 14 years

School: Guru Harkrishnan High School Santacruz (W).

Std.: IX A

SECOND PRIZE

The Richman and the Cobbler

A poor cobbler and a rich businessman were neighbors. The cobbler's house was also his workshop. He sang merrily while he mended shoes. He never felt it necessary to shut and bolt the door or windows of his house. At night he would say his prayers and go to bed. He enjoyed sound sleep all through the night.

The rich man always saw the merry cobbler. He saw that there was nothing that worried the poor neighbor. But the rich man was full of worries himself. He could neither smile nor sing. He always shut and bolted every door and window of his house at night. He could never sleep peacefully. He was always worried about the safety of his wealth.

One day the rich man called the cobbler to his house. He gave him five thousand rupees and said "I don't need this money. Please keep it with you. It's yours."

At first the cobbler was happy to receive the money. But soon the big amount of money disturbed his carefree and peaceful life. For the first time in his life, he closed and bolted the door and windows of his house. He woke up several times during the night to make sure that the money was safe.

The very next morning the cobbler went to his neighbor's house. With folded hands, he said to the rich man "Sir, please take back your money so that I can sleep soundly again".

Moral: Wealth does not always bring happiness

Name: Gauri Sashital

Age: 14 years

School: Lilavatibai Podar High School

Address: F/4 Saraswat Colony
Santa Cruz (W), Mumbai 400054

SECOND PRIZE

Guru Mantra

Subudhi was King Trivikrama's chief-minister. The king had great respect for his administrative ability in solving all state problems.

Subudhi had a Guru, who had blessed him with a 'Guru Mantra'. Subudhi meditated daily according to the instructions of his Guru.

King Trivikrama desired that Subudhi should bless him with a similar Guru Mantra. Subudhi politely expressed his inability to do so. King Trivikram was not willing to see reason. He threatened Subudhi with dire punishment if he did not comply. Subudhi pleaded for two days' time to think about it.

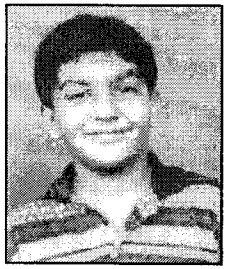
On the third day Subudhi came to the darbar with his personal valet. The King thought that he had come to comply with the orders.

Subudhi suddenly turned to his valet and ordered him to slap the king. However the valet quaked in fear and did not obey. The king was beside himself with anger at Subudhi's foolishness. He ordered the valet to slap his master instead. The valet slapped Subudhi without a moment's hesitation.

Subudhi calmly bowed to the king and said that the king must have got the explanation for Subudhi's helplessness in complying with the king's orders two days ago. He pointed out that though both had ordered the valet to slap, only the king's orders were executed. Subudhi's orders had no power. Similarly, unless the Guru Mantra comes straight from the Guru, it has no power.

King Trivikrama realized his folly and was sorry for having threatened Subudhi.

Moral: Only authority commands obedience



Name: Nimit Parekh

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VI

Age: 11

THIRD PRIZE

The Brave Soldier

Frank was the only son of his parents. In pursuance of his childhood dream and against his parents wishes he had enrolled himself in the United States army. Through his hard work intelligence and tough physical build he had risen to the post of "Major" in the army.

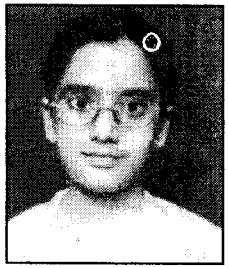
In September, United States of America declared war against terrorism in Afghanistan. Major Frank was called upon to lead an elite commando unit to find and kill terrorists in Afghanistan. The commando unit was trained to fight under very hostile conditions like fighting at high altitude in bitter cold weather. Frank and his unit were fighting courageously against the terrorists and had managed to capture and kill many terrorists.

During a night mission, Major Frank stepped upon a landmine and was badly injured. He lost his left arm and his left leg. For treatment he was flown to America.

After a month in the hospital, Frank had recovered but felt helpless without his left arm and leg. Frank called his parents. They were very happy to know he was alive, but were unaware that he had lost his limbs. Frank asked his parents whether he could get a friend along with him to stay with them for long. They agreed. Frank at this stage said that his friend was handicapped and needed help in his daily activities. There was a pause on the other side. After a few moments his father politely refused as they did not want to spend the rest of their lives looking after a handicapped person. On hearing this Frank hung up the phone.

A few days later Frank's parents received a call from the hospital asking them to come over and identify a body. They identified the body as that of Frank and were shocked to see that it was Frank who had lost his limbs. Frank had committed suicide because of his parent's selfish talks.

Moral: Selfishness can have unpleasant concequences.



Name: Ela G. Bodas

School: Manik Vidyamandir
Bandra Reclamation

STD: VI

DOB: 28th December 1990

Address: Bandra Reclamation
K.C. Road, Bandra (W)
Mumbai - 400050 **Tel:** 6454543

THIRD PRIZE

True to her name – 'Virashri'

Virashri was visiting Bhuj in Gujarat, in the third week of January. She was an eleven year old child studying in standard six and was a bright and friendly child. She immediately made friendship with Sanjay, who lived in the neighboring building.

Virashri and her family were going back the following day, but decided to stay and see the parade on the 26th of January. Early that morning around 8.00a.m., her mother and her father went for a walk.

On 26th January 2001, the schools were decorated and the children were all dressed nicely. Official buildings had the national flag hoisted. Everyone one was walking around, full of pride. Virashri was enjoying all this from her hotel window.

Suddenly, the earth started shaking violently. She had no idea what was going on. She ran outside the room and realized that it was an earthquake. All the people around seemed to be dumbstruck.

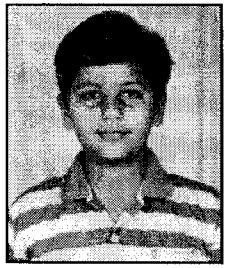
Cries for help interrupted national anthem. Collapsing of the buildings, rivers of blood, howls frm mothers, tears running down everyone's cheeks, these were the scenes immediately after the earthquake.

Virashri stood there in a state of shock, shaken mentally and physically. She saw the national flag mixed with sand and she could not bear it.

Suddenly, Virashri saw Sanjay crying for help. Sanjay's building was going to collapse any minute. There was a fire on one side. Sanjay's hand was stuck under the collapsed door. Virashri herself was afraid. She did not know what to do. She thought that acting quickly was the need of the hour. She rushed in without thinking of her life and helped Sanjay to come out safe.

Virashri was truly a good friend and a brave and courageous girl.

Moral: Bravery and Friendship in hour of need is worth more than wealth and intelligence.



Name: Krishna Nair

Age: 11 years

School: Swami Vivekanand
International School, Kandivli (W)

CONSOLATION PRIZE

The Best Pair of Hands

In a village lived Rita, Sita and Gita. They went to the village Sarpanch and requested him to be their judge. When asked what the competition was about, the girls told him that he had to decide which of them had the best pair of hands. The Sarpanch asked them to come the next day at twelve o'clock. The friends agreed to this.

Rita collected roses from many gardens and crushed the petals between her palms so that her hands should smell sweet. Gita bathed her hands in tender Coconut water, after rubbing them with cream.

Sita was walking past the woods, trying to decide how to make her hands beautiful when she heard a cry of anguish from an old woman. The woman had dropped the bundle of sticks she was carrying and had no strength to pick up the scattered sticks. Sita promptly ran to help her. She gathered the sticks into a neat bundle and carried it to the old woman's house. By then it was 11:45 a.m. She had to hurry to the house of the Sarpanch.

The Sarpanch examined Rita's hands and commented, "Oh! Your hands are rosy and fragrant!" To Gita he said, "Oh! Your hands are so soft!" But he found mud patches on Sita's hands. "How come your hands are dirty?" he asked. Sita told him what had happened and how there was no time to wash her hands after dropping the sticks in the old woman's house. The judge declared Sita as the winner because the best the pair of hands are those that help others.

Moral: Hands are to help, not to show off!
Help each other and have the best pair of hands.

Name: Harsh M. Patel

DOB: 1st February 1988

School: Shree Mumbadevi Vidya Mandir, Khar

Address: 4, Mala Apts.
77 Sarawati Road
Santacruz (W), Mumbai 400054
Telephone: 6492361

CONSOLATION PRIZE

Self Help is the Best Help

There was a school boy. His name was Ricky. He was in sixth standard. He lost his mother when he was five years old. He lived four to five km away from his school.

Many other boys lived in the same locality and went to the same school. Most of them went on cycles. Ricky's father was poor, so he could not afford to get Ricky a cycle. Naturally, Ricky envied the boys who came to school on cycles.

One day one of Ricky's friends had a cycle to be sold. The boy was selling it for Rs.150. Ricky requested his father to give him the money. He said that if he had a cycle, he would be able to save a lot of time and devote some time to his studies, but his father was unwilling to pay this amount, which he could not afford. At last he agreed to pay half the sum. Ricky decided to earn the rest of the amount himself.

The very next day he got up early in the morning and helped the milkman in delivering his milk bottles. Then he also helped the newspaper boy to distribute the newspapers to different houses. He worked three hours a day for three weeks. In this way, he earned Rs.75 for the work that he did. He proudly handed this amount to his father.

His father agreed to buy the cycle Ricky wanted. Ricky got the cycle and was happy to ride on it to school. He was also happy that he had helped his father to pay for it.

Moral: Self Help is the Best Help

Name: Gaurav C. D'Costa

Age: 14 years

School: Sacred Heart, Santacruz (W)
Std.: IX A

CONSOLATION PRIZE

The Eye of the Beholder

Two boys, both seriously ill, occupied the same room in a hospital. Tom's bed was next to the window, and he had to sit up each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. Dick, the crippled boy spent all his time lying flat on his back.

Whenever Tom sat up he described to Dick all the wonderful sights outside the window. Dick looked forward to these sessions because his life was drab without them. He often spent time dreaming of the green lawns, the beautiful trees and the children playing cricket or football. Tom even described the colourful flowers that blossomed on the plants and the tempting fruits that grew on the trees. In fact, Tom provided him with a magic window to the outside world.

He was shocked one day to hear that Tom had to be shifted to a hospital in Pune for advanced treatment. Dick begged the nurse to move him to the bed near the window, which she willingly did.

Three days later he painstakingly dragged himself to a sitting position, till his eyes were level with the window. To his amazement he found the window facing a blank wall.

When the nurse came in he explained to her the joy that Tom had given him through the beautiful descriptions of the world outside. The nurse was even more amazed as she explained to Dick that Tom had been blind and couldn't see a thing.

They were both deeply touched by Tom's compassion and generosity that had filled Dick's life with joy.

Moral: There is joy in making others happy despite one's own adversity

Name: Nirali Gandhi

STD: VI

School: Greenlawns High School
Breach Candy

CONSOLATION PRIZE

Trusting People

My umbrella was badly in need of repairs. So I took it to the old man who sat on the corner of the pavement on the main road. When I went to him, he checked the umbrella and told me that he would charge Rs 10/- for the repair work. I readily agreed to the amount.

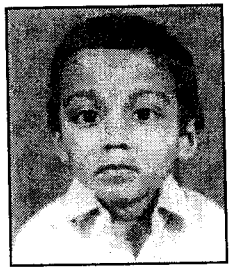
Then he said it would take some time so I could go if I wished to and collect the umbrella in an hour's time. I left the place to do my shopping. Suddenly it struck me that he would run away with my umbrella or pretend that I had not given it to him at all. So quickly finishing my shopping, I went back and watched him closely from a hiding place on the opposite pavement.

My suspicion seemed right. He looked from side to side and got up and went away. Fortunately, he returned ten minutes later. Shortly I went up to him and asked him where he had gone. He explained that he had gone to other repairsman to borrow a tool that he needed. Within two minutes he handed me my umbrella.

To my horror I found that I had spent all my money and had nothing left to give him. He only smiled and told me I could pay him the next day. Ashamed of my earlier doubts, I asked him to keep the umbrella till I got him the money. But he insisted that I take the umbrella, as he trusted me completely.

That night I lay in bed feeling guilty for having suspected an innocent man, especially as he had trusted me completely without even knowing me. The next day when I offered him Rs.20/- he took only Rs.10/ and handed back the other note. This made me even more ashamed of my suspicious nature.

Moral: Never doubt anyone without proof.



Name: Selwyn Braganza

School: Sacred Heart Boys School,
Santacruz (W)

Age: 14 years

Std.: VIII A

CONSOLATION PRIZE

Loving and Forgiving is a Blessing of God

John and Mathew were very good friends. They earned their living themselves. Once, they decided to go to the city and search for a job. While they were on their way, they came across a jungle. They were afraid to pass through it when suddenly luck struck them. They found a pot full of gold coins. They shared it between themselves and returned to their homes. John became very greedy and stole the money that Mathew had. The next morning when Mathew came to know about it he decided to forgive John since he was a good friend.

So he left the city the same day and decided to search for a job. He found a job in the king's palace. After a lot of effort and work he became his minister. He soon grew rich.

John, by then had spent all the money and decided to search for a job. He went to the king's palace without knowing that his friend Mathew was there too. He asked the king for a job when to his surprise, Mathew returned from his morning walk. He saw John and tears began to flow down his cheeks. They hugged each other. On enquiry by the king, Mathew told the king that he was his friend, John. The king on Mathew's recommendation gave John a job. But Mathew warned John to do his job honestly. John realized that Mathew knew that John had cheated him. John was ashamed and asked Mathew's forgiveness. Mathew readily forgave him and they remained the best of friends.

Moral: To err is human, to forgive is divine.

Name: Rishab Nadkarni

Age: 7- ½ years

School: Arya Vidya Mandir, Bandra

DOB: 30th August 1994

CONSOLATION PRIZE

My Proud Parrot

A Parrot and a Crow sat on a branch of tree. There they had a small conversation.

The Parrot said "Look at me, am I not beautiful?"

The Crow said "What is so great about you?"

"Can't you see my beautiful green colour, green wings and the black line round my neck? I have a red beak too" the Parrot replied proudly. "Are you blind?"

"So what?" croaked the Crow.

"You are black and ugly. Your voice is uglier than you. I can talk and whistle and sing too", the Parrot said with his beak in the air.

No sooner had he said this, than a bird seller caught the Parrot and put him in a cage. Later the Crow flew back to the Parrot and said, "You may be beautiful but I am FREE. Because you were proud of your beauty and your singing and whistling, you have landed in a cage, whereas I am a free bird. I can fly wherever I want. Your pride has caused you to be punished ".

Moral: Pride always brings about a fall.

NAME: Priyanka Tribhuvan

BOD: 27th April 1989

School: ST. Joseph's High School Juhu

CONSOLATION PRIZE

The Bird with One Leg

Ivan lived in Italy. He was very fond of eating bird's meat. He often would go bird-shooting, and bring home different types of birds to roast for dinner.

Alex, his cook, cooked very well but he had a bad habit of eating pieces of whatever he had prepared for his master. He would then add a generous helping of spaghetti to supplement the shortage.

One day Ivan came home with a plump bird and Alex turned out a delicious roast. It looked and smelt so good that he was greatly tempted to taste it. But he finished of a whole leg.

He set the roasted bird with a single leg before Ivan. Ivan immediately noticed the missing leg and questioned Alex about it. Suddenly an idea struck Alex's mind and he told Ivan that there are some birds with only one leg. Ivan was amazed. But Alex insisted that he was right. His master was confused and angry. So Alex said "Come with me Sir," and took his master to the lake, where many kinds of birds were found. Among them were cranes, which usually stand on one leg, with the other drawn up and tucked in their feathers. Alex said happily "Sir, these are the birds with only one leg."

Ivan grew angry and shouted at Alex and clapped loudly. All the birds flew away. The cranes spread their wings and the hidden leg was seen before they flew away. Ivan now demanded an answer from Alex. Alex replied that, if the Master had clapped his hands at the dinner table, the roasted crane would have produced the other leg.

Hearing Alex's answer, Ivan burst out laughing, though he knew very well how the leg came to be missing. Being impressed by Alex's witty answer Ivan readily forgave him.

Moral: Humour can often save a person in a serious situation.

Name: Nidhi Sampat

Age: 13 years

School: Lilavatibai Podar High School Santacruz (W)

Std.: VIII

CONSOLATION PRIZE

The Lucky Escape

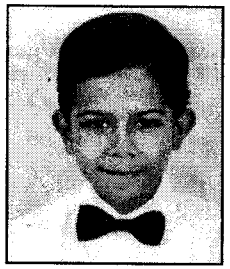
There was a merchant who was not very prosperous. He went to a fair to sell his goods. The fair was a long way from his house with the forest to be crossed. He cursed God daily for it.

The fair was lucky for him. By the last day he had sold all his goods making huge profits. He thanked god for it and was the happiest man. He packed his money safely and started for home.

It was late and the night was dark and cloudy. He rode carefully through the forest. Alas! It started to rain heavily. He grumbled and cursed God for the unwanted rain. He rode deeper into the forest. There he came across a robber with a gun. The robber shouted, "Give up all your money or lay down your life." The merchant was brave and did not wish to lose his money. He stopped for a while and then spurred his horse to a great gallop to get back home. The robber asked him to stop and repeated his threats as he aimed at the merchant in the dark. The merchant turned to see what stopped the robber. He was surprised at the robber not being able to shoot. Soon he realized the reason was that the rain had spoilt the gun powder in the robber's gun.

The merchant now thanked God for the heavy rain which had saved his life; realizing that whatever happens, happens for the best.

Moral: Never find fault with the ways of God



Name: Nikhil Mani

Age: 12 years

School: Anandilal Podar High School Santacruz

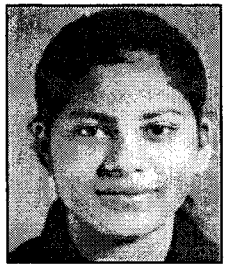
CONSOLATION PRIZE

My Shocking Story

Every home has rules, and mine was no exception. No opening front door to strangers, no playing with fire, and no playing with electricity, no this and no that.

One day while my mother was having her afternoon nap, *(My father was away on the ship)* I decided to play a prank on my mother. I thought I would open the door and press the doorbell. When my mother opened the door, I thought I would shout "Surprise!". So I quietly opened the front door, and climbed the grill nearby, and pressed the doorbell. Bang! I felt an explosion in my head, and for a moment I thought the world had gone dark. Unfortunately for me, the doorbell switch had broken and the button had come off. I was hit by 250 volts of electricity, and thrown four feet away, where I lay on the ground in a half dazed condition and my body shaking like a leaf. I was shouting, "O God, please don't let me die", repeatedly when my mother found me. She promptly called a Doctor, who gave me some medicine to calm me down and numb the pain in my hand. My trip to my grandfather's house in Kerala, which I had really looked forward to, had to be cancelled that day because of this incident. Something, even the doctor overlooked was that I had broken the finger with which I pressed the doorbell. Today, the middle finger of my left hand is crooked because of that day's prank.

Moral: Pranks on parents often backfire



Name: Prerna Tawde

School: I.E.S. Manik Vidya Mandir
Bandra Reclamation

DOB: 25th December 1989

CONSOLATION PRIZE

Smell and Sound

One evening a poor farm worker was on his way home. A very pleasant smell came from a sweetmeat shop on the road. His mouth watered. He went to the shop and stood there for sometime. Then he turned to go because he could not afford to buy the sweetmeat. Just then he heard the shopkeeper's commanding voice, "Stop. You can't go away without making payment."

"Payment? For what?" asked the man.

"For the sweetmeat," said the shopkeeper.

"But I haven't eaten any," said the man.

"But you did enjoy its smell, didn't you?" asked the shopkeeper. "Smelling is as good as eating."

The poor man looked very much worried. Now, a wise man was standing by. He took the man aside. He whispered a word of advice into his ears.

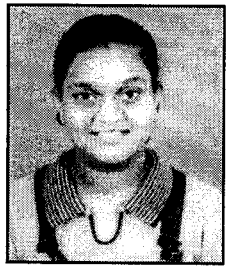
The man's face lit up. He went up to the shopkeeper and jingled a few coins in his pocket. The shopkeeper seemed pleased. He said, "Come on, pay the money."

The man said, "I have paid it."

The shopkeeper said, "No, you haven't."

The man said, "Didn't you hear the jingle of the money? If smelling is as good as eating, hearing is as good as receiving. Ha! Ha! Ha!" He raised his head in pride and stood there for some time. Then he walked away.

Moral: Tit For Tat



Name: Estroz Estibeiro

Age: 14 years

School: Anandilal Podar High School
Santacruz (W)

DOB: 31st December 1987

Address: Plot no.: 47-B
Yasmin Manzil, Flat No.3, Ground Floor
Kamal Co-op. Hsg. Soc. Ltd. Kalina
Santacruz (E), Mumbai-400098.

CONSOLATION PRIZE

You are my Sunshine

Like any good mother, when Aunt Karen knew that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her three year old son, Michael prepare for his new sibling. Knowing that the baby was going to be a girl, day after day Michael sang to his sister in his mummy's tummy. He was building a bond of love.

Serious complications arose during delivery. After a long struggle, Michael's little sister was born. The infant in a serious condition was rushed to I.C.U.

The days inched by. The pediatrician told the parents to expect the worst. Karen and her husband, who fixed up a special room for their new baby, had now to plan their baby's funeral.

Michael kept begging his parents that he wanted to sing to his little sister. But kids are never allowed in the I.C.U. Karen was determined to take Michael. She dressed Michael in an oversized suit and marched him into the I.C.U. He looked like a walking laundry basket. The head nurse recognized him as a child and bellowed, "No children are allowed in the I.C.U.". The mother in Karen rose up strongly, "He is not leaving until he sings to his sister".

Karen towed Michael to his sister's bedside. Looking at his sister he began to sing. "You are my sunshine. You make me happy." Instantly the baby girl seemed to respond. The pulse rate became steady. "Keep on singing Michael" encouraged Karen. "You never know dear how much I love you; please don't take my sunshine away". As Michael sang his sister's strained breathing became as smooth as a kitten's purr. The next day the little girl was well enough to go home.

Moral: Love is incredibly powerful

Name: Rachita Dawer

School: Green Lawns High School
Breach Candy

Std.: VI C

Age: 11 years

Lazy Meena

Everyday little Meena's mother told her to do her own work. But lazy Meena did not like to work. She prayed, "Dear God, let all my work get done for me, so I don't have to work at all." That night God appeared in her dream and granted her wish.

She got up in the morning and wondered if it was real. She got out of bed. In a moment her bed made itself. Meena's eyes popped out. There was more to surprise her. In the bathroom, the toothpaste jumped on to her toothbrush, which flew to her teeth and cleaned them. Her homework was done by itself. Her shoes were polished though she had not done it. Hot water was ready for her bath.

The water was too hot, but the mug mercilessly poured it on her. The dress was not to her liking but it pulled itself on. The food she didn't like stuffed itself into her mouth.

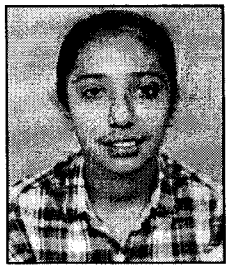
At school, the pen scribbled all over her book. The teacher was really mad at her and Meena was ashamed of herself.

At playtime, the swing began to swing carrying Meena high into the air. Meena screamed for it to stop, but it was no use.

Finally, she went home, hurt and crying. She remembered her mother's advice to do her own work. "Dear God, please let me do things by myself. I promise I shall never be lazy again." The next morning everything was fine.

Suddenly the alarm went off and she realized it was a dream. But she had learnt her lesson.

Moral: Doing your own work will make you truly happy.



Name: Jaya. U. Amarnani

School: Anandilal Podar High School

Std.: VII

Roll No: 1

DOB: 21st June 1989

The Story of Two Sisters

Two sisters called Teena and Meena lived in a small town. Teena was in the seventh standard and Meena was in the fifth standard. Teena was very kind hearted but Meena was very harsh and disobedient. If her elders pointed out mistakes, Meena used to start crying. Teena always explained to her that people corrected youngsters for their betterment.

One day, Meena's friend Priya broke her favourite pen. Seeing this, Meena got irritated and started hitting Priya. Priya was bleeding. The teacher slapped Meena. She started crying and ran to a garden behind her school and she went to sleep under a tree.

In her dream she saw three fairies. They told Meena "You fight with everyone over trifling things. You don't obey your parents and today you did a very shameful thing. You hit Priya for such a small thing. They also said "We like kids like Teena and we dislike kids like you". Hearing this Meena became very sad and said "I am not bad, I will say sorry to everyone and will never repeat my mistake again".

Meena's parents and teachers started looking for her and found her sleeping under the tree in the garden. They woke her up. After getting up she started crying and apoligised to her sister, parents, and teachers and said "Please pardon me. I will not repeat my mistake in future". She went to Priya and said sorry to her.

Meena was a completely changed girl from that day.

Moral: Be kind, obedient and respect your elders.

Name: Aditya Niranjan Sashital

Age: 16 years

Address: F/4, Saraswat Colony
Santacruz (W), Mumbai 400054

The Miracle of Faith

Maniramji was the doyen of the 'Mevati' gharana of singing. He was the darbari singer of the erstwhile Sanand State near Ahmedabad.

In the early nineteen forties, a calamity befell Maniramji. In the morning as he sat down for his daily riyaz, he found to his horror that he had completely lost his voice. Singing is the life-spring of a singer and for Maniram, the loss of voice was worse than death.

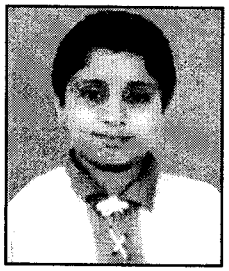
The ruler assured maniramji the best medical aid. Renowned medical experts from all streams, including ayurvedic, allopathic, unani and homeopathic, were called for. Since the vocal cords were impaired beyond cure, none could give him relief. The ruler how ever promised maniramji a handsome lifelong pension irrespective of whether he remained the darbari singer or not.

As a last resort, the ruler then decided that he would beg and beseech divine blessings from Mata Durga. On an auspicious Tuesday night, Maniramji was invited to the private mandir of the royal family where almost five generations of the royal family had been worshipping Mata Durga. Maniramji gratefully came to the mandir with his tambora, along with his brother Jasrajji who used to accompany him on the tabla.

The pooja was completed. Maniramji was still offering his prayers with closed eyes to Mata, when suddenly he experienced a miracle. Mata was blessing him and whispering in his ears the saptasurs, asking him to sing. Even before he realized it he had started singing the-'Durgastavan'.

In gratitude ever afterward, Maniramji would sing atleast one Durgastavan in every mehfil.

Moral: Faith Can Move Mountains.



Name Murtaza Shabbir Dholkawala

School : Anandilal Podar High School

Std.: VIII

The Lost Watch

When I was studying in Dubai, there was a very good system in our school. Each boy of our class had to take a turn to remain behind after the school hours to arrange the desks and put everything in its proper place and tidy the classroom.

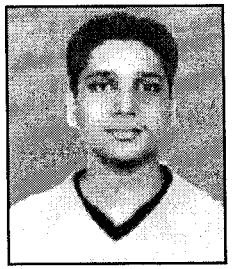
One day it was Murtaza's turn to arrange benches. While doing so he found a very expensive watch fallen under one of the benches. He picked it up and after finishing his work, he went to the Principal's office and handed the watch over to him.

Next day the boy who had lost the watch started looking for it and asking everyone about it. He also asked Murtaza, the boy who had arranged the benches on the previous day and Murtaza said that he had found the watch and had handed it over to the Principal. He asked him to go and collect it from him.

The next morning during assembly Murtaza was called up to the stage and was praised and rewarded for his honesty.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy.

A fea and a fly in a flue were imprisoned.
Said the fly" let us flee". "Let us fly"
said the flea and they flew through
a flow in the flue.



Name: Varun R. Agarwal

School: Shree Mumbadevi Vidya Mandir
Khar

Address: 8/172, Kaniya
10th road, Khar (w)
Mumbai 400052

DOB: 20th May 1986

Believe in Simplicity

In a village lived a shepherd named Ramu. Ramu was satisfied with what he earned and lived with contentment. His village was full of scenic beauty and had some ancient temples. Many foreigners would visit his village for sight seeing.

It was springtime. Ramu had taken his cattle outside the village for grazing. While the cattle grazed, Ramu used to play beautiful tunes on his flute.

Attracted to the music, one foreigner came towards him and praised him. The foreigner introduced himself as Jim and asked him his name and occupation. Ramu told him his name and said that he was a shepherd. Jim further asked him what he did in his spare time. Ramu answered that he did nothing.

Jim was shocked at his reply. He told Ramu that he should utilize his precious time. Ramu asked him what he should do. Jim advised him to start some cottage or dairy business. From it he could also earn money.

Ramu asked him the utility of his extra money. Jim answered that he could lead a very comfortable and worriless life with it. Ramu smilingly told him that that he was leading the same peaceful life at present. Jim did not have any answer to this.

Moral: A life of contentment is the happiest life.

Name: Aangi Jain

School: Greenlawns High School

Std.: VII

Tit for Tat

In the busy city of Mumbai there lived Mrs. Singh, a very rich widow. All her children were married and were living separately. Mrs. Singh had many costly articles, bought from all over the world, that were kept in a special showcase.

She had all the joys of life, except for her eyesight, which was very poor. After a few years she went completely blind. Many doctors tried to help her but no cure was found. She then consulted a well-known eye specialist. He promised to help her recover her sight but would charge her Rupees five lakhs. The widow agreed assuming that she would get her eyesight back.

The doctor visited her everyday. He eyed the lovely pieces in the showcase. He thought 'The old lady is still blind. She will not know if I take these.' So he began to take her articles one after another. After a few weeks the lady got back her eyesight. She could see everything clear as ever. When the doctor asked for her fees, Mrs. Singh refused to pay him, so he took the matter to the court.

When she was questioned by the judge, she said "This man is a cheat. He hasn't cured me properly. I cannot see the costly articles in my showcase?". The judge realized what she was trying to get at. He punished the doctor for robbery and exploitation and made the lady pay him only twenty five percent of his fees.

Moral: Robbery can never be hidden.

Name: Aditya J. Shah

School: Greenlawns High School

Std.: VII B

Roll No.: 38

Honesty is the Best Policy

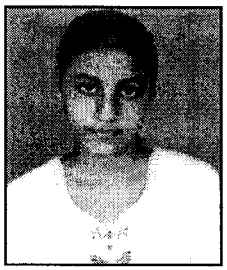
Once upon a time there lived a farmer. He was very greedy. He always looked for ways to get more money. He was also very rich.

One day he went out to buy some things for his house. He saw an open house where a person was selling things. He saw the man put the money in a box and then the person went in leaving the box outside. The greedy farmer took this box and ran home. He then opened it and saw about a thousand rupees in it. At night when he went to sleep he got many bad dreams about his getting arrested for stealing the box. He could not sleep that night. The next morning guilt got the better of him. He went to the man whose money it was and apologized to the man who forgave him.

The farmer never attempted anything like that after that. He realized that honesty was the best policy.

Moral: Honesty is the Best Policy

Don't trouble trouble,
until trouble troubles you,
if you trouble trouble,
trouble will trouble you.



Name: Suparna Bhai

School: Greenlawns High School

Repaid by Kindness

Norma was an orphan, ill treated by her step-mother, who made her toil in the house and never tired of finding fault with her. On the other hand, she pampered and spoilt her own son, by her previous marriage.

One day he stole his mother's gold ring, and blamed Norma for the theft. The furious step-mother turned her out of the house. Poor Norma sat by the roadside, sobbing her heart out. It so happened that a rich widow passing by in her car, saw Norma and stopped the car. When she heard Norma's story, she took Norma with her. The widow had no children and brought up Norma as her own, with deep love for her. Norma too loved the women like her own mother.

By and by, Norma grew up into a fine lady. As her foster mother was growing old and feeble, Norma looked after her with great care and tenderness.

Norma was also doing social service and came upon an old women in rags, who had been starving for many days. She said her son had become a hardened criminal and was always in and out of jail. She wept saying she was properly punished for her cruelty to her step-child, years ago, Norma realized that the old woman was none but her own step mother. But Norma who was large hearted forgave her step-mother and took her home. Once again, Norma's foster mother showed her generosity and let that beggar woman stay in her house, since she was Norma's step mother. She also praised Norma for not harboring any revenge in her heart.

Moral: Justice Triumphs, Injustice does not pay

Name: Piroja Boman

School: Greenlawns High School

Std.: VII A

A Gift in Disguise

Robin was studying in a boarding school far away from the city where his parents lived. He was excited on the last day of the school because his parents were expected to pick him up and take him home for holidays.

A sudden tragedy changed his entire life. He was called to the Principal's room where everyone tried to console him as they broke the news of the air crash which took his parents away from him, forever.

For a while he said nothing as the shock was too great. Later that evening in the company of his favorite teacher, he sobbed endlessly, as if he would never stop. For two days, he stayed in the boarding school. On the third day, his aunt Suzy from California flew down and took charge of him. His aunt was so much like his mother that he cried even more.

A fortnight later, Aunt Suzy took him to California to live with her. She tried to make him happy in every way. She chose a good school and took him to ice cream parlors and beautiful parks. At first all her efforts seemed to fail. In his heart, he still cried for his mother.

His aunt adopted him and showed him how much she loved and needed him. But he always pushed her away, when she tried to hug or kiss him.

On Christmas morning, at the zoo, he was enjoying himself when he caught her looking at a baby monkey fondly hugging the mother monkey. He realized then how much she loved him. And quietly moving to her side, he held her hand.

That evening, when she handed Robin a huge gift, he turned round to hug her saying "I have already got my Christmas gift. Santa Claus has given me my Mummy". Her cheeks were wet with tears of joy.

Moral: True Love begets Love

Name: Archit Lohia

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

The Clever Fox

One morning there was a goat grazing in the forest. Suddenly a fox saw it. The goat rushed away and the fox began chasing her. She was very frightened and ran as fast as she could. Fortunately for her, the fox fell into a shallow well covered with grass. The well had a little water. So the fox drank a little water and started thinking of a way to get out.

The fox tried his best to come out of the well. He tried climbing the stone wall, but kept slipping, again and again.

Fortunately for the fox, he saw a sheep grazing near the well. The fox thought of a plan quickly. He told the sheep that this well had water, which was as sweet as honey. But the sheep did not believe the fox, knowing he could not be trusted.

Meanwhile it was nearing sunset and he lost all hope of saving himself and was also very hungry. Suddenly a lamb cam near the well and peered into it. The fox told the lamb what he had earlier told the sheep.

The innocent lamb believed every word and jumped into the well. The fox now had a golden opportunity. He suddenly jumped on top of the lamb and with the help of his foothold, he sprang right out of the well. He felt sorry for the lamb trapped in the well, but glad that he had made his escape.

Moral: Look before you leap

Name: Ayushi Agarwal

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

Wishing for a son

A couple had three daughters and longed to have a boy. By God's grace, they atlast had a son whom they named Rahul. The boy was pampered from day one. All his demands were fulfilled.

A child is like clay. It is up to you to mould him. If given too much love and pampering, he grows up to be spoilt and irresponsible. Rahul thus grew up to be a drop-out and a thief. He started smoking and drinking when he was quite young.

His parents got him married. But he divorced his wife and later married a woman of his choice. But he was not happy with her also.

He soon took to gambling and fell into bad company. So his family disowned him. And when he met with an accident, he had to fend for himself.

However, the fault lay with his parents who had failed to show him the right path when he was a young boy. This they realized when it was too late.

Moral: A child is what you make him

Name: Dhairal Mehta

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VI

Age: 11 years

Courageous Timothy

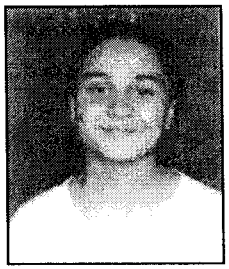
On a nice warm day in summer, John decided to go for a swim in the lake, which was on the outskirts of the city. After breakfast, he went on his cycle towards the lake, along with his pet dog Timothy who was running at his heels.

When they reached there, John jumped straight away in to the lake along with his dog Timothy. They swam for a while and had a lot of fun splashing water all about the place. John was a very mischievous boy, and though he did not know swimming very much he went to the deepest part of the lake. As soon as he reached there, he started to drown and so he shouted for help.

Timothy did not waste any time and rushed out of the water in search of help. While running, he saw two men cycling merrily on the road. Timothy blocked the road and tried to make them understand but the men ignored him. Then, Timothy pulled at the shirt of one of the men and tried to persuade them in that manner. They understood that he wanted them to come with him, so they followed him. When they reached the lake, they saw the terrifying sight and they plunged into the water in order to save John from drowning .

They saved him and carried him to the shore, unconscious. After sometime, John regained consciousness and thanked the men. The men replied that he should thank the dog as he had bought them there to save him. From that day, Timothy became John's favorite pet. John never forgot the brave and daring act of Timothy that had saved his life.

Moral: Life is precious. Do not risk it



Name: Nidhi Mehta

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VIII A

The Mantra

In a town called 'Gulli', lived a middle-class man named Ghanashyam. He was very hard working, but his wife always urged him to earn more. She was never satisfied with what she had.

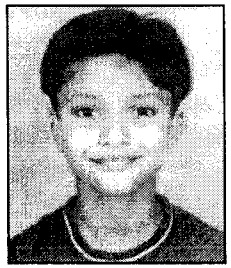
One day, an ascetic visited Ghanashyam's house. Ghanashyam served him day and night. The ascetic stayed at his place for three days. Impressed by Ghanashyam's service, he taught him a mantra, by which he would get what he wanted. But he warned him that if he misused it, everything that he had, would be lost and he would forget the mantra as well.

To satisfy his wife, he asked for a lot of wealth. She was very happy and wished to know from where he got the money. Ghanashyam told her everything about the mantra. Soon greed made her ask for more and more.

Ultimately he became the richest man in the whole village. Blinded by wealth, Ghanashyam forgot all the warnings of the ascetic. Greed made him cruel and selfish, and the moment that happened, he forgot his mantra as the ascetic had predicted and also lost all his wealth.

He and his wife became poorer than they had ever been. The villagers also asked them to leave the village as punishment for their misdeeds. So they were completely destroyed.

Moral: Greed ruins a man's life.



Name: Rishi Mody

School: Greenlawns High School

Std.: VII A

A Magic Smile

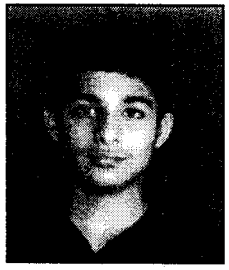
Ajit Singh was waiting for midnight to strike, to start his mission. He was a notorious criminal, wanted by the police for many thefts.

When the hour struck, with his bunch of keys he was able to enter the house of a rich Sheth. He soon entered the room where the safe was kept. He opened the safe, and filled his bag with jewelry and bundles of notes. He saw a baby looking at him with a smile, just as he was about to leave the house. The smile was so warm and charming that Ajit Singh came under its spell. His face softened and he smiled back at the baby.

He lifted the baby and sat down to play with it, forgetting everything else. He thought of his own childhood. Did he ever get a chance to smile? Hardship, abuse, ill treatment was his lot. Yet, how nice it was to smile and get a smile in return.

Meanwhile, the child's mother woke up and was shocked to see her baby in the lap of a frightful stranger; she let out a scream, which brought her husband running to her side. They watched Ajit Singh, gently leaving the child in the cradle. "Who are you? What are you doing here?" they asked. He confessed that he was a thief and had committed theft in their house. But he was arrested by the pure and innocent smile of their child. So saying, he handed the stolen booty to the Sheth. When pressed, Ajit Singh told them about his miserable childhood with no one to take care of him. The Sheth realized that Ajit Singh was good at heart and unfortunate circumstances had forced him to turn to crime. Forgiving him, he gave Ajit Singh a job in his factory. Today, Ajit Singh is the most trusted and respected supervisor in the factory.

Moral: A smile is a curve that sets many things straight



Name: Paras Desai

School: Greenlawns High School

Std: IX C

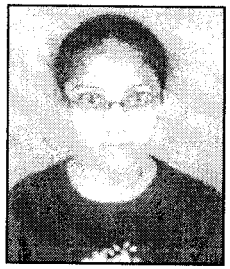
Neglect can Lead to Ruin

George and Bill had a flourishing business of diamonds and stocks. They were rivals in business and very good friends outside. Both were married and well settled. One incident brought about a drastic change in their lives.

That day dawned as usual and everything was perfect. Nobody could guess that the two magnates would face their challenge. Both reached their offices, respectively on time. George was extremely dedicated to his work and did it on time, whereas Bill had inherited his father's wealth and name. Both had to do some income tax paper work and had received a notice to submit the paper work and pay income tax within a week. George worked day and night and completed the papers and paid the tax on time. But, Bill, lazy as he was, postponed his work and failed to pay a huge amount of income tax on the due date. So he was asked to pay a heavy penalty. This also he tried to avoid paying.

The next day, George read in the newspaper that Bill's house, office, property and everything has been sealed. George realized that in just one day, Bill's father's hard earned name and money had been lost. When Bill was arrested, George felt sorry for him. George's business rival was gone but he had also lost a good friend.

Moral: Work done on time can take people places.
Or
A stitch in time saves time



Name: Prachi Vakharia

School: Greenlawns High School

Ami's Problem

Ami Patel who lives next door to us is a sweet girl, 8 years sold. She has everything that a child can ask for. Loving parents who try their best to make her dreams come true.

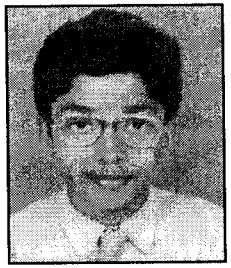
The Patel's own a small hotel. They have a lot of guests because the food and service is known to be excellent. It is indeed a very happy family. Unfortunately they have a problem, which causes them endless anxiety. Little Ami was born deaf and is therefore unable to lead a normal life. The Patels in spite of their efforts were unable to find a suitable school for her. My parents too were unable to help them because our little town is far away from the known educational centers in the bigger cities.

We all felt very sad for Ami who was a very happy and friendly child but for the handicap. I went over to her place almost each day to play with her. When I enjoyed the sounds made by her numerous mechanical toys, I felt sorry that she could not enjoy them as much as I could. In the night, I felt sorry that she could not hear the comforting sounds of the traffic outside. She was deprived of the joy of communicating with normal children like us.

However she had one gift. She could paint beautiful pictures, which her parents proudly displayed on the wall. Amazingly, this unexpectedly changed her life. Mr.Modi, a guest who had come last week was highly impressed by Ami's paintings and made friends with her parents. When he learnt about her handicap, he became even more interested because he had been planning to open a school for those with impaired hearing. And Ami would now be his first student.

The Patel's are naturally overjoyed. We are attending a party tonight to celebrate their unexpected good fortune.

Moral: Every cloud has a silver lining.



Name: Sarbodaman Mukherjee

School: St. Joseph's High School, Juhu

STD: VIII A

The Gift

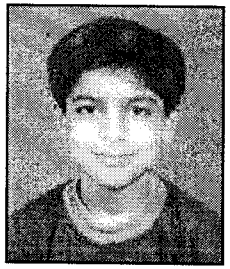
Peter D'Souza was not happy about the low marks his son was getting in his studies. One day he promised his son anything he wished for, on condition, he found a place in the merit list, in the final examination. John asked for a Mercedes Benz as a gift and the father agreed.

From then on, John studied very hard and true to his word, was in the merit list when the results were announced. Coming home from college, where he had been felicitated with many prizes, he demanded from his father, the gift he had been promised. Peter gave him an ornamental box. When John opened the box, he found a bible inside. John was so angry and disappointed; he flung the box across the table and walked out of the house in the huff.

Many years later, he received a letter from his father's lawyer asking him to take the possession of the house, belongings and property as the sole heir of Peter who expired, leaving his legacy to John.

When John returned home, he found the box on the table in the same position in which he had left it. He slowly opened it, picked up the Bible, when a piece of paper fell from it. When he unfolded the paper, he read the following words in bold letters. "FULLY PAID –RS 30 LAKHS FOR A BRAND NEW MERCEDES BENZ BOUGHT BY Mr. PETER D'SOUZA, FOR HIS ONLY SON Mr. JOHN D'SOUZA". The key of the car with a red silk ribbon lay at the bottom of the box. John's eyes filled with tears.

Moral: Act in haste and repent later.



Name: Siddhant Saksena

School: A.P.H.S

STD: VII A

Roll No: 33

The King and the Shepherd Boy

Long, long ago, there was a king who was very fond of painting. One day, he went to a cliff and painted a beautiful picture on a canvas. When the picture was ready, he stood before the picture and moved to and fro giving it finishing touches with his brush. Then he stepped backwards, to see how it looked from a distance. He nearly reached the edge of the hill.

A shepherd boy, who was grazing his sheep on the hill, saw the king. He knew that if the king moved even one step backward, he would fall into the valley below and die. So he ran to the picture and tore it with a hard blow of his stick.

The king was so angry that he rushed to the boy shouting angrily, "You fool! What have you done, I will kill you."

The shepherd boy fell on his knees before the king and said in a humble voice. "Please Sire, if I had not done this, you would have fallen off and lost your life".

The king looked back and thanked the boy for saving his life. Then, taking the boy with him to the palace, the king rewarded him with rich gifts.

Moral: Presence of mind can save a life.

Name: Harshada Keer

School: I.E.S's Manik Vidya Mandir

Opp. Lilavati Hospital, Bandra (W)

Mumbai-50

STD: VII

Bravo Chanda

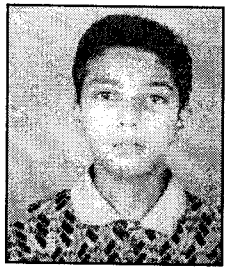
On a hot sunny day, Chanda and her classmates were waiting on the railway station. They were off on a wonderful picnic.

Chanda was very thirsty. She opened her bottle to gulp down a few sips of water. But in vain! The water in her bottle was over. So, she went near the cooler. There was a long queue. She moved a little to her left. Some young boys were fidgeting in a corner. Chanda stood on her toes to see what they were doing. Two boys were filling water in a bottle and the other two were busy sticking labels. She couldn't believe her eyes! She thought to herself, "Aren't these boys cheating the public?"

Suddenly, Chanda saw a signboard reading 'Railway Police Station'. She immediately rushed into the room. She saw a tall man with very stern face and big moustaches. Chanda concluded that he was in charge. She approached him and described whatever she had seen. The officer rushed out with Chanda, and the boys were caught red handed. They admitted their mistake. They told the officer about the person who forced them to commit the crime. The officer imprisoned the two boys as well as the man who was forcing them.

Everyone was worried on the platform about Chanda. When their teacher saw Chanda coming with the police, he was frightened. Everyone inquired about what the matter was. The officer narrated the story and praised Chanda for her courage. He promised Chanda a reward. Everyone was proud of Chanda.

Moral: When you see Crime being committed, it is your duty to report it to the Police.



Name: Enoch Rajaratnam

School: Anandilal Podar High School

STD: VII

A Blessing from a Fairy

Once upon a time, two sisters Esha and Nisha lived with their grandma in a village named Amirpur near Allahabad.

Esha, the younger one was very obedient and helped her granny in household work. She fetched water from the well, which was at some distance from the house.

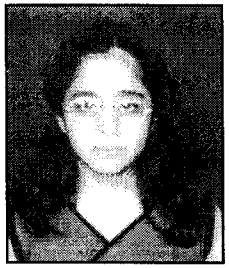
Nisha, the elder dominated Esha. She just enjoyed eating, playing, and sleeping. She never obeyed her granny. Whenever she was asked to work, she used abusive language. She would also fight with Esha.

One day, Esha went to fetch water from the well as usual. An old lady came there and asked her for some water to drink. Esha at once obliged her with smile. After quenching her thirst the old lady turned into a fairy and blessed Esha and said that whenever Esha spoke jewels and pearls would fall from her mouth. Saying this, the fairy disappeared.

When Esha gave this news to her granny and Nisha, truly jewels fell from her mouth and they were all happy.

The next day Nisha ran to the well and waited desperately for the fairy to come. When a dirty old woman came and asked her for water. Nisha abused her and sent her away. Soon, the old woman turned into a fairy and cursed her that whenever she spoke worms, frogs, and scorpions would fall from her mouth. When it actually happened, Nisha changed her attitude and learnt to respect her granny and love her sister.

Moral: As you sow, so you will reap



Name: Ekta S. Talreja

School: Anandilal Podar High School
Santacruz (W)

Rupa's Birthday Party

It was Rupa's birthday. She was eleven years old. She was dressed in her new clothes, and was waiting for her friends on the terrace. As she was talking to her mother, she saw a parrot on the guava tree. She asked her mother, "What do parrot's eat?" Her mother answered, "They eat guavas". As she was talking about the parrots, her friends arrived. They all went to the garden and played a lot. Then all the friends decided to go to Deepa's farmhouse. When they all went to the farmhouse terrace, they started talking about their school. Suddenly Deepa screamed and said that she could see two bulbuls on the food tray. Everyone was amazed. The next day Geeta and Deepa went to Rupa's house. They asked Rupa's mother if they could go to the zoo. Her mother gave them the permission to go After going around the zoo, her friends were tired. So, at the gate, they ate ice cream and felt refreshed before they went home.

In the night, when Rupa sat for dinner, her parents asked her what she had seen at the zoo. She said, "I saw lots of animals and birds at the zoo". But she looked sad and said, "When I grow up. I will open all the gates and let all the animals go back to the forest".

"Will you help me?" she asked her parents. They agreed to help her and she went to bed, happily.

Moral: Born free, Live free.

Name: Hemanshu Sabarwala

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

At last Justice was done

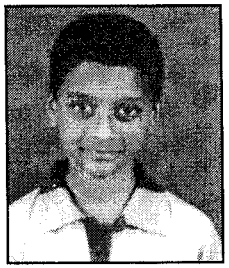
It was a market day in the city and carts and animals had arrived from all over the countryside. There were pedlers, merchants and farmers. Even a king was expected to attend. In a nearby stable, a foal was born. As soon as it was able to stand, it got frightened of the noise and excitement around and fled. It went and hid between two oxen that were pulling a plough with great effort. Bhikku, the owner of the foal wanted his foal back. But the owner of the oxen claimed the foal was his because it had arrived there on its own.

They took their dispute to the king who decided that the foal should remain where it was. Thus the two oxen had become its parents from the moment the foal had taken shelter with them.

Bhikku was very upset and he desperately wanted his foal back. So he took the advice of a wise old man. Accordingly next day, when the king was out in his carriage, Bhikku appeared before him, standing in the middle of the street with a fishing net. To the amusement of the people around he was casting his net as if he was fishing. The king asked him what on the earth was he doing. "I am fishing, your majesty" he replied. "Fishing on the road?" the king remarked. "If two oxen can be parents of a foal, why shouldn't I be able to catch fish in the middle of the road?" replied Bhikku.

The king realized that his previous judgment was wrong. So he made the dishonest farmer return the foal to Bhikku, the rightful owner and also made him pay Bhikku a huge amount for wrongly claiming the foal.

Moral: Dishonest people will always be punished. So, Honesty is the best policy.



Name: Darren Rodrigues

School: Sacred Heart Boys School

The Changed man

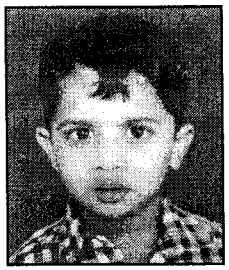
It was past midnight and Joe, an elderly man heard a faint noise in one of the rooms of his house. He quietly sneaked into the room and saw a young man, Robert, in tattered clothes, searching for something. Robert looked very hungry. Joe felt very sorry for him, and said, "Don't be afraid, I think you are hungry, I shall give you some food and fruits."

Hearing Joe's voice, Robert was frightened and said, "I have actually come to rob your house. But you are kind and offered me food and fruits. I do not deserve your goodness". Joe said it did not matter what his intentions were, and gave Robert some food. He even gave him a bed to sleep on. Robert thanked Joe and fell asleep.

Next morning, Joe gently touched and woke the intruder, and asked him to have bath and also gave him clothes to wear. Joe then called him for tea in the dining room where some children were also present. While having tea, Joe told them in the presence of Robert, the story of an honest woodcutter who had accidentally dropped his axe in the river. The woodcutter had refused to accept the gold and silver axes from the fairy. He took only his axe made of steel. So for his honesty, the fairy rewarded him all the three axes.

Robert was impressed by the story and decided to change his bad habits. After some days, Robert totally changed, became kind and generous like Joe.

Moral: if there is a will one can give up one's bad habits and live honestly



Name: Jash Desai

School : Blooming Dales, Khar (W)

DOB: 8th June 1993

Laliya, the Barber

The king of Bharatpur was very clever. He would take good thoughts from clever men of his kingdom and write them on the walls of his durbar.

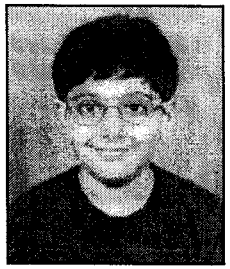
He had a special barber called Laliya. Laliya would come early morning to shave the king. While shaving, he would tell the news of the city to the king. The king would take him in confidence.

The chief minister wanted to be the next king. So he bribed Laliya with lots of money and told him to cut the king's neck with his razor and kill the king. At first Laliya refused to do so, but agreed when the chief minister forced him and offered double the amount.

The previous day, from another kingdom a sage had come to the king and told him, two lines of wisdom. The king wrote them on the wall where he sat for the morning shave.

When Laliya was sharpening the razor, his hands were trembling. He just could not start the shave, when he read the words on the wall which said "Sharpen your razor, Sharpen your razor with water but I know what you are thinking." Laliya wept and asked for forgiveness. He told the king that the minister had ordered him to kill the king. The king punished the minister and made Laliya his trusted minister.

Moral: Honesty always gives you rewards



Name: Pranav Sarda

School : Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Vidyalaya

Age: 13 years

STD: VIII

Address: D-5, jolly Apartments Saraswati Road, Santacruz (W) Mumbai-400054.

"Sheikh-Chilli, the day dreamer"

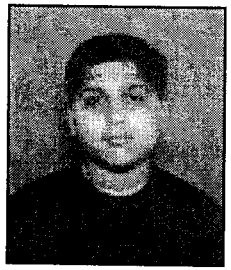
Sheikhchilli was a happy young boy. He had the habit of daydreaming. When he failed in the examination, his mother got very angry and turned him out of the house, telling him that he should not come back unless he could do some work and earn some money.

Sheikhchilli went to the railway station, where he saw a merchant searching for a porter to carry a basket full of eggs. The merchant asked Sheikhchilli to carry the basket to his nearby shop for which he would give him four eggs. While carrying the basket on his head, Sheikhchilli stated dreaming. He thought he would incubate the four eggs from which he would get many more hens and eggs. He would soon become a big trader in hens and eggs. With the riches, he would have a bunglow, a car and get married to a beautiful girl and have children. The youngest two children whom he would love the most, would sit on his shoulders and ask for lots of chocolates, toys etc.

They would refuse to go to school. Out of anger, Shiekhchilli actually did the dropping action and threw the basket on the road. The merchant got very angry. In his explanation, Sheikhchilli said, "Sir, you have lost only a basket full of eggs, while I have lost my car, bungalow, wife, children, everything". He told his dream story to the merchant.

The merchant was a kind man. He forgave Shiekhchilli. From that day onwards, Sheikhchilli gave up daydreaming and concentrated on studies and became a learned man.

Moral: Student's aim - only studies, no dreams
Or
Truthfulness helps



Name: Nimai Patel

School: St. Joseph's High School Juhu.

STD: VIII A

Change Of Heart

Sheila often travelled by bus when she went to school. Whenever she could, she tried to travel without a ticket. She had got used to hiding behind other passengers when the conductor came towards her. She also slipped past the passengers when she got off the bus. She was quite proud of the way she managed to dupe the conductor.

She saved the bus money to buy ice candy from the vendor at the school gate. She knew that her mother had forbidden her to eat anything that was sold out in the open. But Sheila did not care.

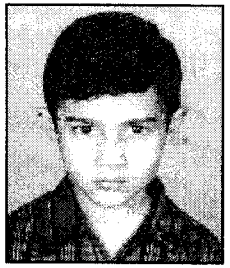
One day, a new girl called Sona got into the bus with her. At the bus stop, Sona's father told her not to forget to buy the ticket. He also advised her to give up her seat to standing passengers who were old or sick. Sona agreed to do so and always followed his instructions. She became friendly with Sheila who was slightly older than her.

A few days later Sona noticed Sheila avoiding the conductor. She was shocked and hurt that a good girl like Sheila should be dishonest. After that she started avoiding Sheila, because she was secretly ashamed of having a friend like her.

Sona did not say anything about this to anyone. But Sheila guessed why Sona had begun to avoid her. Gradually Sheila felt ashamed of herself and longed to make friends with Sona again.

The only way to do this was to become honest like Sona. So one day, she deliberately called the conductor and bought a ticket as if to show her friend that she had changed. When this happened for four days, Sona knew that Sheila had indeed changed. They became very good friends after that. Sheila had learnt a lesson before it was too late.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy



Name: Yashwardhan Modi

School: Anandilal Podar High School Santacruz (W)

STD: IV

Brother and Sister

Once upon a time, there lived a man named Shyam. He had two children, a boy and a girl. He was very wise. His wife had died after giving birth to the children. He brought his children up with love and care. The boy grew up to be very handsome, but the girl was not as good-looking as him. The boy was very proud of himself, as every one praised him and ignored the girl.

The children always went at the top of the hill to play and while coming down they would collect fire-wood. One day, when they were busy collecting fire-wood, they found a mirror. They had never seen a mirror before. They were very excited to see what they looked like. The boy was very pleased after seeing his face in the mirror. He said to his sister, "How handsome I am! I look much nicer than you!" The girl was very annoyed with her brother for what he had said. She was so upset that she gave her brother a push and said, "Go away".

All this was witnessed by their father, who was watching them from the window of his cabin. He immediately called them and said to the boy, "You must always be good as well as look good". And to the girl, he said, "My dear, if you help everyone and do your best to please others, then everyone will love you. It will not matter that you are not as good looking as your brother".

Moral: It is better to be good than to be just good looking.

Name: Akshay Surana

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

Roll No: 34

Honesty is the best Policy

Once there lived a very simple, poor and honest woodcutter. His name was Raju. He used to go to the forest and cut trees. One fine morning he went to cut the trees on the bank of river. He was cutting with great effort when all at once his axe fell into the river. The water was very deep.

Raju could not take his iron axe out of the river. He went and sat on the banks of the river and began to weep. How would he earn money for his family? How would he live? He was worried that his family would have to starve. Even if he wanted, he could not buy another axe because he did not have money.

The God, Mercury heard his cries. He asked him the reason for his crying. The wood-cutter told him that when he was cutting the trees, near the bank of the river, his axe fell down into the river.

The God, hearing the wood-cutter's story assured him that he would get his axe out of the river. He took a dip into the river and came out with a gold axe. The wood-cutter refused to take it because it was not his. Again, the God jumped into the water and brought out a silver axe. The wood-cutter refused to take it, telling him that it was not his. The third time the God jumped into the river and brought out an iron axe. The wood-cutter happily took it. Mercury was very pleased. He rewarded the wood-cutter by giving him the gold and the silver axes for his honesty.

Moral: Honesty is the best Policy

Name: Shraddha Mehta

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VIII B

Honest Ramu

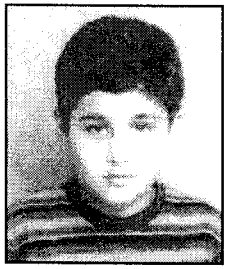
Once upon a time, a little boy called Ramu lived in a village. He worked in a fireworks factory in Shivkasi. This factory was hidden from the people's eyes as illegal operations were going on there.

Poor illiterate young children worked there, as they had no option. When they made mistakes they were beaten and were not paid their salary. Ramu was working in this place when some officers came to investigate.

The children were signaled to go into a small room where they were hidden from the eyes of the officers. Ramu was delayed, so one of the officers caught sight of him. The officer asked Ramu whether he worked there. Though Ramu was scared of the consequences, he admitted that he did. He knew that he would be severely punished. He trembled in fear. The words of the officers "Arrest them" sent a chill down his back.

Ramu decided he would go away somewhere far and seek some help there. However, he didn't have to. The Police Force appreciated his honesty and rewarded him for the courage he had shown in speaking the truth. And arrangements were made for his education.

Moral: Honesty is the best Policy



Name: Karun Asrani

School: Blooming Dales High School

Age: 10 years

The Two Friends

Raju was the son of a carpenter and Kirit was the son of a jeweller. They became great friends.

When they grew up each learnt the trade of his father. Then, together, they set out to seek their fortune. They settled down in a kingdom where the king loved to buy works of art. Both Raju and Kirit excelled in their profession. However, a secret jealousy began to grow between them as each one wished to impress the king.

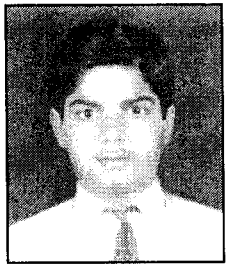
They were soon called to court. And each one was asked to make an extraordinary and unique article for a contest with Rs.20,000/- as an award.

Kirit made a silver fish with scales that looked amazingly real. And Raju made a wooden horse that could trot and gallop at the turn of the key. The king was so impressed that the contest ended in a tie with each one being promised Rs.10,000/-.

However, wanting to outshine Raju, Kirit asked for a water tank. When he put the fish into it, it swam about twisting and turning like a live fish. Raju asked the king to mount on his horse. When the horse was urged to move, it galloped away till it was lost to sight.

The subjects, enraged at having lost their king, caught Raju and imprisoned him and later banished him as well.

Moral: Be content with what you get



Name: Vinayak .D. Gayakwad

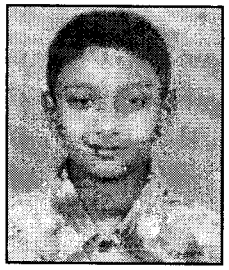
School: Balmohan vidya mandir
Dadar

True Friends

In Mumbai, there lived two men. One was the top most businessman in the market and other was a famous police inspector. One night Rakesh, the businessman, was going to sleep because he was very tired. But, at that time there was a knock at his door. He looked out of the peep-hole. But there was nobody. Again his door was knocked. Rakesh opened the door slowly. As soon as he opened the door, two thieves attacked him and rushed into his house. They asked Rakesh for the keys to the safe. Since they threatened to kill him, Rakesh gave them the keys and they stole all the money and jewels in his safe.

In the morning, Sameer, the famous police inspector was given the duty to investigate the theft. He got those thieves with valuables and some money. And Rakesh recovered his stolen things. From that day, Rakesh and Sameer became best friends. One day while Sameer was investigating another case, he was shot at by the robbers. The people present on the scene took him to the hospital. Sameer was admitted and needed blood. Unfortunately, his blood group was very rare. The doctor said, "If he cannot get the blood, he may die". When Rakesh came to know, he rushed to the hospital. He requested the doctor to take his blood, but the doctor said, "I want to check your blood group first." He checked Rakesh's blood. Fortunately their blood group matched. Doctor took his blood. Rakesh's blood saved Sameer's life.

Moral: Help given to the needy will always be valued



Name: Nachiket P.Kanade

School : IES's Manik Vidya Mandir
Bandra Reclamation

STD: VI A

Struggle

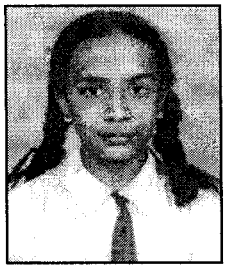
A biology teacher was teaching his students how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. He told the students that in a couple of hours, the butterfly would struggle to come out of the cocoon but no one should help the butterfly. Then he left.

The students were waiting and it happened. The butterfly struggled to get out of the cocoon, and one of the students, Popey took pity on it and decided to help the butterfly out of the cocoon against the advice of his teacher. He broke the cocoon so the butterfly didn't have to struggle anymore. But shortly afterwards the butterfly died.

When the teacher returned, he was told what happened. He explained to Popey that by helping the butterfly, he had actually killed it, because it is a law of nature that the struggle actually helps the butterfly develop, its wings, when he comes out of the cocoon. It also strengthens its wings. The boy deprived the butterfly of its struggle and it's life there after.

Moral: Struggle is the key to the great door of success.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled paper
a peck of pickled paper peter piper picked.
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled paper
where is the peck of pickled paper
Peter pipe picked?



Name: Ekta Chatterjee

School: St. Teresa's Convent High School

STD: VI A

DOB: 5-10-1988

Address: 103 Navjeevan Gruh
Opp. National garage, S.V. Road
Santacruz (W), Mumbai - 54

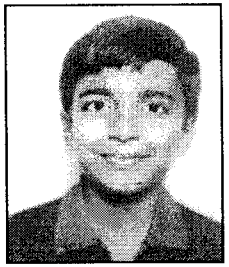
Tel: C/o 6152805, 6122391

The lion and the mouse

Once upon a time, there was a little mouse that lived in a forest. One day the mouse was playing in the forest, near the lion's den with his friends and suddenly he fell upon the lion's body. The lion got angry at the mouse and screamed at him. The mouse got afraid and begged the lion to forgive him and also said that in turn the mouse would help the lion when he needed help. The lion burst out laughing. "A little mouse will help a huge lion like me?"

One day, while the lion was roaming about in the forest, some hunters saw the lion and captured the lion and put him in a net. The lion started roaring so loudly, that the voice echoed all over the forest. The mouse saw the lion trapped in a net. The mouse soon went near the net and with his sharp teeth bit the net. The lion was released and was very happy. The lion saw that the mouse had helped him in coming out of the net. The lion soon remembered that once the mouse had promised him, that at time of trouble, the mouse would help him. The lion was pleased and soon went to the mouse and thanked for saving his life. The mouse and the lion soon became best friends.

Moral: A friend in need, is a friend indeed.



Name: Kirit N. Pandya

School : Jamnabai High School

DOB: 16th November 1989

The "Three Friends"

In the little village of Handi, lived a very rich man called Seth Ramchand. He was the village headman.

There lived three friends, Ramu, Shamu and Raju. They used to gamble a lot and thus, were always short of money. Everyone hated them.

One day, they decided to rob Seth Ramchand's house. That night they quietly entered his house through the pantry window, which had been left open.

The trio left the house, each carrying a large sack stuffed with gold and silver jewellery and cash. They retreated into the woods to divide the loot. But each had his own idea of sharing it.

Ramu said it was his idea of looting Seth Ramchand's house, so he should get the major share, and the rest of the loot be divided into two equal parts. Raju said it was he who had set foot in the house first, so he should get the major share, and Shamu said that it was his idea to select the best items to rob, so he should get the major share.

They did not agree so they took the help of a common friend, Balu. Balu on seeing the friends undecided had a brilliant plan.

He said that he should get the major share plus a high fee from each for equal distribution. The three friends agreed.

Only when the loot was divided, they realized that they had been cheated. They decided to teach Balu a lesson. They told Seth Ramchand that the burglar who had robbed his house was Balu. He was caught red handed with the loot and was severely punished. The three friends were rewarded.

Moral: "Even among thieves, dishonesty is to be condemned and punished.

Name: Aradhana Bose

School: St. Teresa's Convent High School, Santacruz (West)

Std: VII A **Roll No.:** 7

A Friend is a Priceless Treasure

There was a rich merchant who had many friends. At least most people called themselves his friends because of his wealth. The merchant once decided to test his friends. So one day he went on a long voyage to trade in another country. He returned even richer, but told everyone that he lost his ships in a storm.

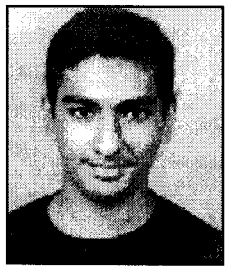
Dressed in poor clothes, he went to visit his former friends. Now that he was poor, everyone shunned him. One said, "Sorry, I'm busy now. Do not trouble me." Another said "I want to help you but I don't have money." A third even refused to open the door, while a fourth laughed at his shabby garments.

Finally, he came to the house of his old school friend and knocked on the door. When his friend heard his story, he welcomed him and said "You were always kind to me in school. Now it's my turn to repay you. Make yourself comfortable here, while I prepare you a meal."

The next day, the merchant wearing his costly garments prepared a big feast to which he invited all the towns' people. The false friends now ashamed of themselves, still came hoping to enjoy the feast. The servants gave each guest a large dish with a cover. When the false friends opened their dishes, they found only sand inside but when the old school friend opened his, he found THE BEST OF SWEETMEATS.

The merchant then, disowned his false friends and rewarded his old school friend, by making him a partner in his business.

Moral: A Friend in need is a friend in deed



Name: Pranav S. Shastri

School: Shree Mumbadevi Vidya Mandir

Std.: X

DOB: 22-10-1986

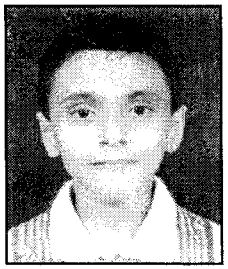
The Message of a Brother

Once upon a time, in a village there lived a farmer. He had two sons, Arjun and Karan. Karan was very hard working. He used to go to the farm with his father and come back in the evening. He used to help his old father very much. In contrast, Arjun was a very lazy boy. He never tried to help his father.

His father died and left all his land and house for his children. After his death, it did not rain for two years. Arjun thought that all the resources left by his father would be used by his brother and his family. So he thought that he should divide his house and land between him and his brother. He told his thought to his brother Karan. Karan lovingly told him "As you wish". His wife also agreed with her husband, Karan. The land was divided.

After one month, it rained heavily. Karan worked very hard on his land. There was a very good production from his field. His economic conditions improved. On the contrary, Arjun's conditions become worse. One day while Karan was going to his farm, he met Arjun. Arjun was very sad. Karan asked Arjun "Why are you sad?" and Arjun answered "I have nothing. I do not know how to work in the field". Karan said "I will teach you and if you work very hard, you will get good results". Following his brother's teachings, Arjun worked very hard and got good results. His economic conditions also became good. After this, both the brother's lived happily ever after.

Moral: Hard work always brings good results



Name: Jay Sheth

School : Utpal Sanghvi School, Juhu

Bridge of Sand

Many, many years ago, there lived a boy named Yavakrit. He wanted to be a person who excelled in studies without making any efforts.

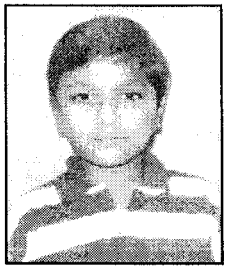
He started doing penance for Lord Indra. So when Indra got pleased with him, he would ask for a blessing to make him a Pandit without studying.

Lord Indra was pleased with Yavakrit and came to him. When he heard what Yavakrit wanted he told Yavakrit that his father was already a Pandit in Vedas, so why doesn't he learn from his father, Bhardwaja, instead of wasting time doing penance. But Yavakrit insisted he wanted to be a Pandit of Vedas without studying.

One day, Yavakrit was walking along the banks of Ganga River, where he saw a Brahmin who was putting a fist full of sand in the river. Yavakrit was curious to know why the Brahmin was doing such a foolish act. The Brahmin called Yavakrit foolish and told him not to interfere and not to disturb him. But, yet curious, Yavakrit did not leave from there. Finally, the Brahmin told him that he was building a bridge of sand across the river Ganga. Yavakrit told the Brahmin that it was not possible to build a bridge across the river Ganga by throwing fists full of sand in the river.

The Brahmin turned back and told Yavakrit that if it was possible for Yavakrit to be a Pandit of Vedas without studying then it was also possible for the Brahmin to build the bridge. Yavakrit instantly realized what a big mistake he had made and he understood the importance of studying.

Moral: Without studying we cannot be Pandit



Name: Aditya Mehta

School: Greenlawns High School Breach Candy.

Std.: VI B

Age: 11 years

Snoopy makes Magic 'Work'

Snoopy, the wicked little elf, who lived in the land of Tinyitots was extremely lazy. He never polished his shoes nor brushed his teeth nor combed his hair. He didn't even take a bath! But he was very fond of reading books.

One day, he got a book on magic. He thought he could avoid work using magic! Next day, as usual, Snoopy got up late. Seeing his untidy room, an idea struck him. He decided to use magic to clean up his room. Then he would have time to read a book. He opened the book and found the magical lines needed.

When he said, "Abracadabra, clean my room", lo! The room was spic and span! Pleased at his luck, he went into the garden to read a book.

When he found a lot of rubbish lying around in the garden he spoke the same magical lines and it became clean and tidy in a flash!

Now lazy Snoopy, soon got used to cleaning through magical powers! The wizard who had lost his magic book found his book and took it back. Displeased with Snoopy's laziness he said, "Abracadabra, make this elf forget all the magic he has learnt".

Seeing the wizard, Snoopy chased after him. He was so used to tidiness; he couldn't bear to be sloppy.

But the wizard explained that real magic was in doing your own work, yourself. "Nobody can take away this power", he said.

Snoopy realized his mistake and started doing his own work himself. He was very happy with his new magic, the magic of doing work himself!

Moral: Doing your own work will make you happy.

Name: Sahil R. Bhagat

School: Greenlawns High School

Std.: VI C

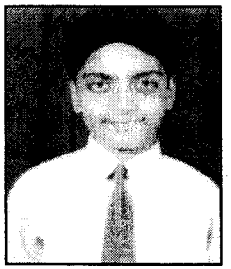
Age: 11 years

Strike when the Iron is Hot

'Strike when the iron is hot'. How true is this proverb? It means that when an opportunity comes before us we must immediately seize it rather than throw it away because another opportunity may never come again. I vividly recall a story which my grandfather told me, which filled me with pride and made me realize the worthiness of this golden adage.

There was a boy called Boltusrovar. He was four years old. He was totally engrossed in music. He used to prance all over the house trying to keep steps with the sound of music as he grew up, His mother Anne, seeing his inherent talent was impressed with him and put him under the training of the best teacher, Shamak Davar, as she was planning to send him for his school concert. As Boltusrovar was a very young boy, he was apprehensive of the stage. His mother coaxed him to participate and at last he agreed. October 27, 1975 was the day when his school concert was held at St. Xaviers College. The audience comprised many viewers and artists. When Boltusrovar came on stage, he was terribly nervous. But when he saw his mother amid the audience with a million dollar smile, he regained his confidence and danced amazingly well, much to the delight of the audience, who cheered him and applauded him to an encore. He felt so happy that tears began to trickle down his eyes. As Boltusrovar came out, he was singled out to participate in a serial 'Kya Masti, Kya Dhum'. Boltusrovar could not believe his ears. On November 16, 1975, he went to the talent show 'Kya Masti, Kya Dhum'. He danced so gracefully that he was given an award for the best dancer. Sonali Mody called him the best dancer among all the various dancers that participated. When he came out of the stage, a director named YAsh Johar told him to act in his movie 'Kabhi Khushi, Kabhi Gham'. After a year, this movie was a super hit. Boltusrovar was given the award for the best child actor in the 'Videocon Filmfare Awards'. When he grew big, he became a star and was given an award for the best actor in the film industry. Today we still know him as a star because he struck when then iron was hot.

Moral: Always Strike when the iron is hot. You will get a chance to show your talent and you will always be successfull in life.



Name: Vinesh Vajani

School: G.H.K High School

STD: IX B

The Lazy Father and Son

Simon lived in Rampur with his son Michael. They both spent their time drinking and gambling. They did no work at all. The only person that worked in the house was Michael's wife, Sarah. Soon Sarah fell ill and became bedridden.

However, Simon and Michael neglected her and continued to spend their time drinking as they did in the past. Poor Sarah groaned and moaned, but in vain. Neither Simon nor Michael realized that their money was dwindling. Nor did they pay any attention to Sarah when she pleaded with them to earn a living.

Sick and tired of her plight, Sarah soon wasted away and died. It was then that Michael begged the villagers to help them with money for the funeral. But, knowing how pointless it was to help them, the villagers refused to give them money.

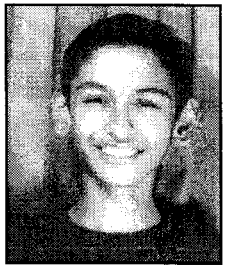
With great difficulty, they begged and borrowed money for the funeral. The tragedy opened their eyes to reality. They made up their minds to give up their old ways.

Gradually they began to work. And a few years later became self sufficient and respectable.

Moral: Adversity is the best teacher.

A film star's name is a five letter word.
She runs between two A's.
What is her name?

Ans : Aruna.



Name: Pratiek Dhadha

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

Roll No: 15

"The Ascent"

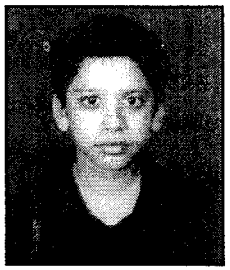
It was just before dawn. The four men started drinking their morning tea and eating slices of bread all determined to reach the summit of Mt. Hauz Khao. They walked five miles till they reached the bar of the Mamoth Mountain. They said their prayers and started climbing with all the necessities for their survival during the expedition.

The beginning was easy, the four men, Henry the Courageous, Charles the Ambitious, Geofferoy the Determined, Jordon the Spontaneous. After climbing about a mile, they began to get tired and their then steps moved slower. After a while, when they could go no further, they stopped. They had some warm cocoa and rested for a while before they proceeded. The climb grew steeper and the air became chilly. They were getting tired faster, stopping more frequently. Soon they halted. Only Geofferoy was determined and did not give up. He was ready to go up all alone. The rest of them returned. Every step Geofferoy took filled him with even more determination. It was getting colder and colder. There was a snowstorm, but nothing could dampen the spirit of Geofferoy. He advanced like a soldier at war, without the fear of defeat. He went ahead overcoming every obstacle. The destination was within his view. The journey ahead was not easy, but he had resolved to proceed. He advanced forward and in a few steps he reached the top and thus his Herculean expedition came to a successful end. As Geofferoy reached the summit of Mt. Hauz Khao he spiritedly put the flag of his country on the peak.

The quick glimpse of the picturesque landscape brought him joy and satisfaction.

Later he was rewarded for his achievement. He gained international acclaim. He is remembered even today for the courage and determination that he showed when he went through his ordeal. Truly, his victory and fame were well deserved.

Moral: He who eats the kernel, must crack the nut.



Name: Deepak Bhushan

School: Greenlawns High School Breach Candy

STD: VI C

Roll No: 17

Try Hard and you will Succeed

Sarang was a clever boy but because of his untidy handwriting he could not acquire a high rank. His mother constantly advised him to practice his handwriting, but to no avail.

There was a test coming up. But as usual, his rank dropped down. His birthday was two days later and he had printed beautiful invitation card on computer but he did not know exactly the venue of his party and he filled it up later.

The day was fixed for Saturday at 5.00pm and he was really excited. Time passed by and he was under the impression that his friends would come.

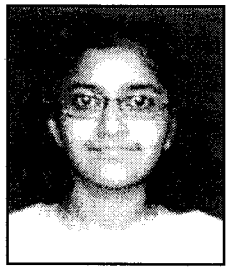
His mother saw him looking gloomy and dejected. As no one had come, he tried to eat most of the goodies and that made him sick and he had to be admitted in the hospital.

He later learnt from his mother that his friends could not decipher his handwriting and hence did not know the location of the venue.

When he returned home the next Saturday, he was still unhappy and he entered his unlit house. Suddenly the lights came on and there was a greeting of a belated 'Happy Birthday". He could not believe his eyes that his friends had finally come.

He now practiced his writing everyday. When the results were announced the third and second ranks were called out. He, now lost all hopes and tears filled his eyes and he sobbed aloud. He suddenly heard the teacher calling out the first name and it was his. Practice makes you perfect.

Moral: Practice makes a man perfect.



Name: Janita Kakad

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

Fruits of Labour

It was Sunday evening. The market place was fairly crowded. All eyes had turned to the carriage of King Kacha Pacha who often visited this overcrowded place. His eyes soon turned to a huge stone lying in the centre of that beautiful market place.

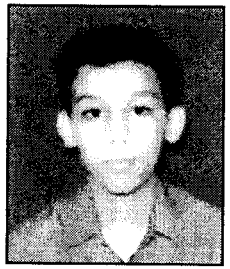
The King was upset that the stone had not been removed. Even the officer who he often praised, would go round it and the people would rather take a detour, than remove it. How Could It Not Trouble Anybody!!! He wondered.

There happened to be a carnival in the neighboring town and Siku along with his brother Piku came into the ancient town of Lamapu. Their motive, of course was shopping for some costumes for the carnival.

They could not but stare at this beautiful city, when suddenly their eyes saw the stone at the centre of the market place. It did not take them time to move it. When they did to their utter surprise, they found an iron box beneath it, which read 'For the man who moves this'. When they opened it, the sight of the treasure made them pinch each other to make sure, it was not a dream.

The king, who was informed about this incident immediately summoned the two brothers and honored them.

Moral: The fruits of labour are always sweet.



Name: Hemant Salvi

School: GreenLawns High School

STD: IX C

Little Koya

Little Koya enjoyed attending the parties thrown by her class mates. She loved the cake and variety of food that was served to her. She also loved the quaint return gifts that she was presented with.

Now, it was her turn but she could not afford to give a party. Her mother and she had suddenly sunk into poverty when her father had been killed in an accident. After that, nothing seemed to go right. Her mother had to sell their house in the city and move to this small town. She had to give up her school, her friends and all the wonderful things she had got used to.

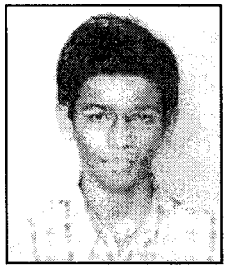
But her new friends were kind to her. And now, when her birthday drew near, she wondered whether they would ignore her when they saw how small her house was. How could she afford the eats and the return gifts?

The next morning, Koya was overjoyed to see the beautiful dress stitched by her mummy. Koya thanked her and wore that dress to school. When her friends arrived in the evening, her mother welcomed them cordially saying "How would you like to start off with some home-made cookies?" The children made a bee line for the overflowing jar. They really liked the cookies.

The children helped Koya's mother to slice the huge pineapples grown in their backyard and also pick coriander leaves. While the pineapple cake was getting ready, they helped her to make coriander chutney sandwiches. As they worked, they sang, exchanged jokes and had a whale of time. They also enjoyed eating the sandwiches, cake and mango milkshake. Each got a bottle of pineapple jam as 'Return gifts'. They exclaimed that "This is the best party we ever had".

Next morning a stranger called at the door. "Mrs. Kanti" she enquired. She wanted to know whether Koya's mother could make jam for sale. Everyone had loved the jam. Thus started a roaring business.

Moral: Sincere efforts combined with love can yield excellent results.



Name: Abhishek R. Jain

School: Anandilal Podar High School

STD: VIII

The Hidden Treasure

An old farmer had three sons. They were young and strong, but were very lazy. They wanted money to spend. But they did not want to work to earn money.

One day the farmer said to them, "There is treasure lying buried in our field. Dig out the treasure and share it amongst you".

So the next day, the young men eagerly went to the field and started digging it. They worked hard for several days. They dug each and every inch of the field but found no treasure anywhere.

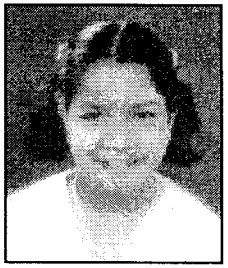
They went to their father and told him that they had failed to find the treasure. The father said, "Never mind. Now that you have dug the field so well, let us sow it with corn.

So they sowed the field with corn. Luckily for them, it rained very well that year. The corn ripened and the field looked beautiful with the rich crop. The young men showed the field to their father with great pride. The farmer said, "What a bumper crop! This is the very treasure I wanted you to share among yourselves. If you work hard, you will get such treasure year after year."

Moral: Sweet are the fruits of labour

Why is a coward like a leaking tap ?

Answer : Because they both run.



Name: Sapna Ullal

School: St Teresa's Convent High School

Age: 11 years

Tel No: 6603119

The Save Trees Campaign

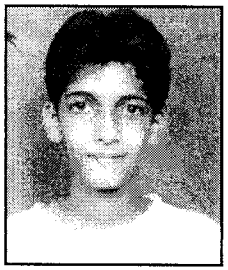
Shweta and her friends formed a 'Save trees' campaign as lots of trees were cut down in the village. They decided to go around to all the villages and ask for help.

The first village was called deaf man's town. They knocked at a door. An old man opened it. Shweta asked him, "Can you help us for our Save-trees campaign?" " Don't murmur, speak up". "Can you help us for the "Save Trees Campaign?" they all shouted loudly. "Now, now do not shout. I am not deaf.". "Help us for the save-trees campaign." they shouted again. "What? Pave three chains. It makes no sense." Saying so, he shut the door. It was the same with the other houses. Tina told her friends "Don't lose your heart. Let's try the next village."

The next village was called Fairy's town. "What a funny name!" whispered Radha softly. They walked further and met a small girl who asked them "You all have been to Deaf man's town. Isn't it? ". "That's right but how do you know?"

Suddenly the girl grew small. She grew wings. "I am fairy. You'll are in a fairyland. I'll give you a list of all the towns." "Oh. Do," said Lata excitedly. "Well, then there is lame man's town, blind man's town, dumb man's town and so on... "Her voice trailed. "Oh no!" said the girls. "No more campaigns for us. "But Tina repeated her advice "Do not lose heart. Let's plant trees in our own village first." So they did that and surprisingly all the other villages followed, impressed with the greenery.

Moral: Where there is a will, there is a way.



Name: Divij Kulkarni

School: Anandilal Podar High School

STD: IX

Prize or Punishment

The kingdom of Bijou was ruled by King Alex. He was a noble ruler and strictly followed the laws of justice and honesty. His subjects respected him. The king's third wife Queen Helene was the prettiest and his favorite. She supported the king and skillfully helped him in ruling the empire.

One morning, the doorkeeper of the palace went on his knees and pleaded "Your majesty, it will not be safe to go hunting today. I got this dream last night, sire, that a saint came and warned me that something terrible would happen if you went hunting today". "I don't believe this nonsense, you may leave." The king said and galloped away on his horse.

On his way to the jungle, King Alex met Queen Helene, who having heard of the doorkeeper's nightmare pleaded with the king and persuaded him to return to the palace.

That afternoon the king heard a shocking news. The entire hunting ground had been burnt down by a forest fire. "He was right" King Alex commented, "He saved my life. I must reward him."

The next day, the doorkeeper was summoned. The king rewarded him with a piece of land. "You are fired," said King Alex. "What crime have I committed sire?" the perplexed doorkeeper asked.

"You are a night watchman. How dare you sleep at night and dream? Lazy workers have no place in my palace" said the king and left the courtroom, leaving behind an astonished doorman.

Moral: Negligence leads to loss.

Name: Preeti Mishra

School: I.E.S. Manik Vidya Mandir Bandra (W)

DOB: 1st January 1989

Tel No: 6454553

Age: 13 years

Bad intentions- Bad results Vis-à-vis Good intentions-Good results

There was a person called Bibek. He was working in a company. His boss used to like him because he was a very sincere and quiet person. His behaviour was exemplary.

One day, a lady called Rita Malhotra was posted in the office in which Bibek was working. She was an arrogant lady and started indulging in politics from the very first day in her office. She started influencing the boss in a wrong way and in a few days time she had many employees fired from the office.

Bibek realized that if he did not do something quickly the lady would have him fired too. He thought of a plan. He went to a far off place and purchased a pack of cigarettes. He had in his life time never touched a cigarette. He then went to Rita's house. He abused his boss in front of Rita and started smoking cigarettes. The lady was furious and said she would report his conduct to the boss.

On the next day, Bibek could see Rita storming into the boss's cabin. After sometime, he was called by the boss and asked to explain his conduct on the earlier day. Bibek said that it was a day like any other day in his career. He had gone quietly to his house and had spent his time reading and watching T.V and then going to bed early.

The boss was dumb founded. He could not believe what the lady was saying and thought that she was mad. He had no options but to dismiss the lady from his company.

At last the lady fell into the trap, which she had dug for many employees.

Moral: Deception more often then not, it will boomerang on you.

Name: Rishab Shah

School: Greenlawns High School (BreachCandy)

STD: VI

Age: 11 years

Tit for Tat

Once upon time there lived a poor farmer. He had come all the way from his village to Mumbai to sell his goods.

While he was returning he smelt a pleasant smell which came from a nearby sweetmeat stall across the road. He walked over and stood there besides it. He could not afford the sweetmeat but he stood there inhaling the pleasant aroma of the sweetmeat and dreaming that he too would own a similar stall some day.

After some time he turned to go. Just then he heard the commanding voice of the stall keeper, "Stop! You can't go without payment.

"Payment? What for?" replied the poor farmer. The shopkeeper replied "For the sweetmeat of course". The farmer replied, astonished, replied, "I haven't eaten any." To this shopkeeper retorted, "But you did enjoy its smell, didn't you? Smelling is as good as eating."

The poor man was very much worried. He hadn't gained any profit, but infact had incurred a loss. It had been a morose day for him.

Suddenly the farmer hit upon a brilliant idea. His face lit up with joy. He went up to the shopkeeper and jingled a few coins in his pocket. The shopkeeper was delighted. He was glad that his plan had succeeded and then said, "Come on, pay the money."

To this the man replied, "I have already paid it". "No! You haven't", replied the shopkeeper.

The man then said, "Yes, I have. Didn't you hear the jingle of the coins? If smelling is as good as eating then hearing is as good as receiving. Ha! Ha! Ha! Then he walked away.

Moral: Do not try to take advantage of anyone or trick anyone. The plan might back fire. Those who dig a pit for others often fall into it themselves.

Name: Amit Shah

School: Manekji Cooper High School

DOB: 31st October 1991

The Three Dream girls

Once upon a time in city of London lived three girls. Their names were Tina, Esha and Pam. They were the daughters of rich businessmen but they were very modest. They studied in the same college.

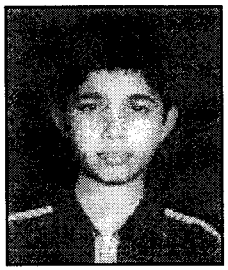
They all dreamt of becoming famous dancers. They also used to go for dancing classes after college. They used to practice a lot and had won many awards for their college. Every year there used to be a dance competition in their college, where colleges from all over England would take part. The first year they won no prizes. But the next year they worked harder and won.

After that they were sent to New York for further training. They were trained for three years and practiced almost seven hours a day. They were overjoyed to hear that they were selected to participate in the International Dance Contest. They worked harder and harder.

When the day came they were apprehensive but excited. They performed a lovely item called 'The Golden Dance'. They were dressed in golden clothes and wore golden makeup, lipstick and nail polish. The costumes were perfect and also their dance. So they won hands down.

When the judges announced their names, all of them were excited. They came home victorious and everyone was proud of them. Their dream were fulfilled and later on they formed one of the most popular dance troops in the world.

Moral: Hard work is the only path to success



Name: Dylan Fernandes

School: Sacred Heart Boys' High School

Std.: VII

Hard Work Pays

Vijaybhai, the rich diamond merchant of Surat was honest and respectable. Despite many servants, he worked hard in his shop. He was also kind, polite and generous. Unfortunately, his handsome young son Varun was a spendthrift and gambler. Though, Vijaybhai disapproved of him, he could do nothing to change him. He only prayed that Varun would one day change his ways and carry on his business successfully.

One day Vijaybhai called Varun and said sternly, "From today I shall not give you a single paisa unless you stop gambling and help me in the shop." Initially, Varun thought his father was joking but soon realized that he was serious. Varun then began to borrow small amounts of money from an old servant who had looked after him from childhood. Later, he also borrowed from some other servants. When Vijaybhai guessed what was happening he asked them to confess,and when they wouldn't, he sacked them because they had lied to him.

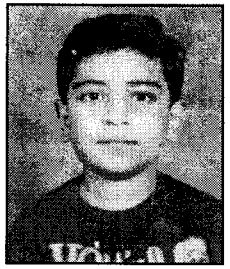
Soon Varun had to earn for himself. Unused to work, he was only capable of physical labour. To win over his father, he handed him his daily wages of thirty five rupees. However, Vijaybhai threw this into the nearby well without a word. This continued for several days.

Finally Varun stopped him, saying "I work hard from dawn to dusk, but you just fling the money away. I just don't understand it."

"Varun, I did this on purpose," said Vijaybhai. "Do you realize that I've been working hard for years and you have spent my hard earned money gambling, drinking and on unworthy friends. You even went to the extent of borrowing money from servants."

This incident completely changed Varun's character and he became an ideal son after that.

Moral: When one works hard one realizes the true value of money.



Name: Prashant Soomaney

School: Anandilal Podar High School

Std.: VIII

A Clever Business Man

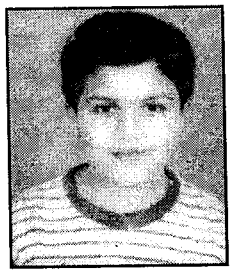
Paramjeet, an Indian businessman settled in America had a Rolls Royce car. He decided to go to Switzerland for business expansion. However, his major cause of worry was his car. He did not know where to leave it. Hence he approached a nearby garage in order to park his car for 15 days, when he was to be out of America.

As he was a millionaire, money was not a problem. So he thought of this idea. When he asked the garage-owner the rent for parking and security of his car, the latter demanded $50 a day. Thus it worked out to $750 for 15 days. Paramjeet converted it into Indian rupees and thought it to be very expensive.

Suddenly he came across a novel idea. He approached the bank manager for a loan of $5000-which was peanuts for him. As he did not disclose his identity, the bank manger asked him to keep a security against the loan he had applied. He readily handed over the set of keys of his car and taking the money went away on his business trip.

When he returned after 15 days, he went back to the bank and returned the amount and interest which was just $25. In this way he was able to get the security of the car which otherwise would have cost him $750.

Moral: All problems can be solved if handled with intelligence and smartness.



Name: Shashank Ugrankar

School: I.E.S. Manik Vidya Mandir Bandra (W)

DOB: 13th October 1990

Tel No of School: 6454553

The clever Trout*

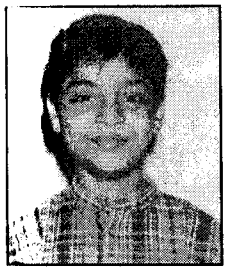
Once upon a time there lived a fisherman who was used to idling. He often would tell his wife, "One should never do a thing in a hurry. That is the way people make mistakes". His wife agreed, yet she felt that her husband took a long time to decide.

One day, the fisherman went for fishing just for fun. He thought "I am hungry and a couple of trout will be sufficient for me with tea." He tried to catch fish but he failed. When at last he managed to catch a very small trout, it took him by great surprise. Raising his head from the grass, the trout said, "Oh! Kind sir, please set me free."

The fisherman with utter surprise exclaimed, "Why put you back in water? It's taken all afternoon to catch you and you are all I have got for my tea!" The trout replied, "If you leave me in the river, I will grow bigger. The next time, you are able to catch me, I will be tastier for you". "That's correct," agreed the fisherman, and threw the trout into the water. No sooner did the fisherman do that, than the trout raised its head from the water and said, "Thank you, but I shall know better than to take a bait in future and no fisherman will be catch me ever." The fisherman regretted wasting time and felt foolish to have let the trout go back in the water. From that day, onward he stopped idling.

Moral: A bird in hand is better that two in a bush.

* Trout : type of fish



Name: Samay Mehta

School: GreenLawns High School

STD: VIII B

The Cunning Wolf

In a forest lived a wolf, known to be savage and ruthless. One day, feeling thirsty, the wolf went down to a stream, and as he drank the sparkling water, he saw a lamb drinking, further downstream.

The minute he set eyes on the helpless lamb, he decided to make a meal of it. "A nice plump lamb! Fine and tender! Yummy! That will be delicious! Now, I must find an excuse for picking a quarrel".

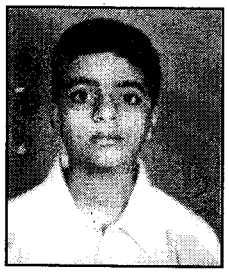
The lamb was still happily sipping the water when it heard a deep growl.

"You down there! You are muddying my drinking water!". The lamb gasped in surprise," I am sorry; Mr. Wolf, but I can't possibly be muddying your drinking water. I am below you and the water is flowing downhill, not up!"

The wicked wolf quickly hit upon another excuse to be angry. "I hear you went around, six months ago, telling people that I'm violent and a bully!" At that the lamb began to tremble and it replied in a tiny voice, "How can you believe such a thing, Mr. Wolf? I wasn't even born six months ago! So I couldn't have spread gossip about you."

But the wolf was interested in gobbling up his prey, so he hastily broke in, "Well if it wasn't you, it was your father", and pouncing on the little white lamb, he quickly ate it.

Moral: Innocence does not always save us from the jaws of a tyrant.



Name: Ameya S. Pitre

School: Balmohan Vidyamandir, Dadar

A Memorable Incident

While changing channels of her T.V.set, Priya heard a familiar name and she stopped there astonished, to see the photo of a person on T.V. It was Sameer, her friend from childhood. She was pleased to see him after a gap of twenty years. The news televised thereafter brought her tremendous agony. The news was that Sameer was recipient of 'Param-Vir Chakra' posthumously. She couldn't believe what she heard. But the fact was in front of her. In this hour of sadness, she remembered the sweet and sour moments of past...

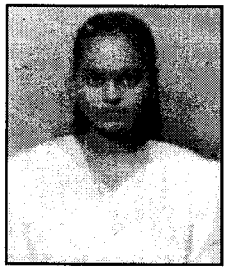
'Sameer, although poor was rich at heart. He was always a well wisher and was always ready to help everybody. Myself, my brother Akash, Sameer and Babu, along with ten to fifteen children from neighboring society used to play together. Except Sameer, all were from very wealthy and sophisticated families. But Sameer outclassed all of them. But he was envied by everybody especially by Akash.

Once, when thieves attacked Siddharth's house when he was alone, Sameer bravely and cleverly gave a fright to the thieves by entering the house from the window and handed them over them to police. At that time, I could only see jealousy on the face of Akash, who was always negative about Sameer.

As Sameer was poor, nobody maintained an intimacy with him especially Akash. Sameer had not expected that everybody would congratulate him and would give awards for his work. He always did his work unselfishly. Though he was a helpful person, all the children used to laugh at him due to his behavior. Sameer used to say, "You are laughing at me today. But one day in your life you will definately feel sorrow for me".

Priya was still in the past, thinking about Sameer. She was in tears. Suddenly the telephone started ringing. It was ringing for a few minutes. The telephone ring broke the silence. Priya awoke from her thoughts. It was Akash. He said, "Priya, do you recollect what Sameer used to say? He always used to say that you will surely feel agony for me. That occasion has come today. Priya 'our' Sameer alias Major General Sameer Bhide has sacrificed his life for nation in the war and he has got a 'Param-Vir Chakra' posthumously. This moment is admirable as well as of sorrow for us in our life. I always thought that Sameer tried to defeat me and insulted me. But it was wrong. Actually today, I have been defeated by him".

Moral: One good turns deserves another.



Name: Dhanashree Dhekne

School: St. Josephs High School Juhu

STD: VIII B

Hungry Jackal and the Poor Camel

A hungry jackal was wondering how to get to the other side of the river where he would have plenty of crabs.

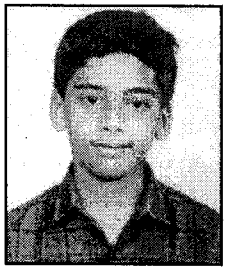
A camel was passing by. So an idea struck the Jackal's mind. He asked the camel, "I am sure you like sugarcane, don't you?" "Yes, I do," replied the camel. "There is a lot of sugarcane on the other side of the river," said the Jackal. "I will come along with you and show you, but the river is so deep that I shall be drowned if I walk through the water. Would you mind carrying me on your back?" The camel said, "I am grateful to you for the information. I am very pleased to have the opportunity of returning your kindness."

With the Jackal on his back, the camel waded through the water. The jackal pointed out the sugarcane to the camel and proceeded to eat crabs.

After finishing his meal, the Jackal found the camel still eating sugarcane. He grew impatient and wanted to play a trick on the camel. He ran round the fields howling, soon, the villagers heard, and came running and beat the camel with sticks. The camel ran in panic and got into the river. The Jackal at once jumped on his back.

While crossing the river the camel asked, "Why did you play such a trick on me?" The Jackal replied, "I am used to howling after a good meal." "I am used to taking a bath after a good meal." The camel said and rolled in the river. The Jackal was nearly drowned.

Moral: Tit for Tat



Name: Osric D'costa

School: Sacred Heart Boys High School

STD: VIII A

Age: 13 years

The Grateful Eagle

Once upon a time there was a wood cutter named Ram Lal. He used to stay in a village on the coast of Gujarat. He was a very kind and hardworking person. He used to go early in the morning to cut wood, which he sold for a living.

One day returning from the forest, he heard a noise from behind a tree. At first he was frightened but later he gathered his courage and went to check. He saw an eagle caught in a trap. Feeling very sorry for the eagle, he freed it before the hunters could find it. The eagle was thankful and flew straight towards the blue skies. Ram Lal felt very happy, that, he had saved one life and continued on his way home. After a few days, Ram Lal went to cut wood on a mountain. In the afternoon, he sat beside a boulder on the edge of the mountain to eat his lunch. If the boulder rolled down then Ram lal would lose balance and fall off the mountain. But Ram lal did not realize that his life was in danger. Just then, the eagle whose life he had saved, swooped down and took his lunch packet. When Ram Lal got up to chase the eagle, the boulder rolled down, and the eagle dropped the lunch box at Ram Lal's feet. Ram lal was very grateful to the eagle for saving his life.

Moral: One good turn deserves another.

Why is an empty Match-Box superior to all others?

Answer : Because it is matchless

Name: Indrakshi Pole

School: B.P.M High School Khar

STD: X

Tit for Tat

Once, a camel and a jackal were fast friends. They lived near a river. The jackal was very cunning. He often tried to befool the camel. One day he said to the camel, "There is a field of melons across the river, let us go there and have a hearty meal." The camel agreed and carried the jackal on his back across the river. Soon they reached the field and began to eat the melons. The jackal was soon satisfied. He began to howl. The camel had not finished yet. He asked the jackal, "What are you doing? The owners of the field will come up and give me a sound thrashing."

"I am so sorry," replied the jackal "but you see I cannot help it. It is my habit that when I have had a hearty meal, I set up a howl". And he began to howl still louder. On hearing this the farmers came to the field. The jackal hid himself in a thick bush. But the camel that was too big to hide himself stood there. So he got a sound beating from the farmers. He was very angry with the jackal but kept quiet.

When the farmers had gone away, the jackal came out. They set out on their return journey. The camel again carried the jackal on his back. In the mid-stream he began to roll in the water. "What are you doing?' said the jackal. "Don't you see the water is too deep for me? I shall be drowned." But the camel replied, "You see I cannot help it. It is my habit that when I have had a hearty meal, I roll in the water." The jackal fell into the river and was drowned.

Moral: As you sow, so shall you reap

Name: Yogita Bhekare

School: B. P. M. High School

STD: X

Age: 13 years

Tit for Tat

A king once became very angry with one of his ministers. He put him in prison for a long time. One day the king happened to visit the prison. When the minister saw him, he fell at his feet and begged to be let out of prison.

As the king did not wish to release him he said to him. "If you can bring me a horse that is neither grey nor black, nor brown nor white, I will set you free." The minister replied "If you let me out of prison, I will find you the horse that you require". So the king released the minister.

After he had been out of prison for about a month, he went to the king and said, "I have found the horse that you require.Please send a man to bring it to you. But you must not send him either on a Monday or on a Tuesday or on a Wednesday or on a Friday or on a Saturday or a Sunday. You may send him on any other day that you wish".

Moral: unreasonable demands will set unreasonable responses.

What colours would you paint the Sun and the Wind

Answer : The Sun rose and the Wind blue. (Blew)

Name: Munish Tejwani

School: Anandilal Podar High School

STD: VIII

The Selfish Boy

Surendra was a very selfish boy. He was rude to most of the children in his school except when he needed a favor. Though he was clever he was unable to do any project that the teacher asked him to do. For this he depended on his sister Suniti, who helped him because she felt sorry for him.

Unfortunately, he was kind to her only when he needed her help. At other times he quarreled with her and even beat her sometimes. She was so hurt that she decided not to help him ever again. But when he came crying to her she always changed her mind because he was 2 years younger and looked very helpless when he cried.

One day Suniti had a fall in school and hurt her knee. It was very painful for her to walk. But she did her homework sitting in one place where her mother had made her very comfortable.

When Surendra returned home from the playground he asked Suniti to do a drawing project, which he could not manage. The mother asked him to say "Please". But he refused to do so. He said "Suniti is my older sister and it is her duty to help me." To this the mother replied "You are her younger brother and it is your duty to treat her with respect and to talk politely to her at all times."

Suniti quietly began to work on the project. Suddenly when she started coughing and she asked Surendra for a glass of water, he refused to get it. "I am not your servant", he said. Suniti was so hurt that she pushed aside the project, which she had just begun, she said "Then I am not yours, either. Get someone else to do your project." Knowing how he had behaved his parents also refused to help him because they wanted to teach him a lesson.

The next day the teacher punished him in front of the whole class. It was then that he realized that others will treat you exactly the way you treat them.

Moral: As you sow so shall you reap

Name: Nayomi Mehta

School: Greenlawns High school Breachcandy

STD: VI

Age: 11 years

The Proud Nobleman

There once was a man called Hikato who lived in Japan with great royalty, pomp and splendor. He was a very selfish and greedy person who had amassed wealth through unfair means.

Hikato robbed the poor of their land and then treated them as his servants. He was the cruelest man in Japan and some people got scared of him. He built palatial houses for himself and for his family. He was a restless person. None of the villagers liked him. His wealth consisted of diamond, rubies, jewels, houses, vast land and a room full of money. Although he was an aristocratic person, he did not have any sympathy for anyone.

On one sunny Sunday afternoon when everybody was asleep, suddenly the ground began to tremble and the houses one by one began to collapse. Hikato's palatial house also trembled and it soon crashed. Hikato had come out of his house at that time but could not save his property. Everything was in ruins and destruction was everywhere. As Hikato could not collect a single penny or even a gem all the villagers laughed at him. He was very ashamed of himself and he was embarrassed. Some villagers stared at him and some got some money and fled away.

Hikato was now a roadside beggar and all his wealth was lost. Nobody came to console him. He had now learnt a lesson.

Moral: Pride brings about a fall.

Name: Priyanka Modi

School: A.F. Petit Girls High School

STD: VII

The Proud Little Cock

Once upon a time in a village there lived a man named John who owned a poultry farm. In his poultry farm there were many kinds of animals such as cocks, chickens, pigs, cats, dogs and horses.

One day a cock named Rooster found a toy carriage in one part of the poultry farm. After he had found the toy carriage his entire behavior changed, he became very arrogant and proud. He boasted to everyone about his discovery but then he realized he would not be able to ride on it as there would be no one to push him. Then he began to plead with everyone to push the toy carriage as the cock had forgotten them and had behaved very rudely and arrogantly with them. Then two cats came and they asked the cock whether they could pull the toy carriage.

The cock was very pleased hearing that someone would take him for a ride. The cock's friends persuaded him that it was not safe to go with the cats as the cats were their enemies. The cock did not listen to them and left in his carriage. When they were nearing the woods the cock started worrying. He asked the cats "Why are you not turning back for the poultry?" The cats just laughed, killed the cock and ate him up.

Moral: Pride always goes with a fall

Name: Vivek Shankar

School: Anandilal Podar High School

The Magic Shankh

Many years ago, there lived near Varanasi a poor man called Ramu. He was always hungry and miserable.

One morning, Ramu's wife said, "I have heard that holy men living in the Himalayas have the power to help people. Please, therefore, go to Himalayas."

Next morning, Ramu went to the Himalayas on a pilgrimage. He walked for days. At last, he reached his destination. He climbed up until he was surrounded by snow. Ramu was shivering because it was cold up there. There, he saw a holy man who was singing hymns. The holy man asked, "What do you want?" Ramu answered, "I want your help. My wife and I are very poor. Please help us to become rich." "Take this Shankh. It will give you a gold coin everyday. Then you will not be poor", said the holy man.

Ramu took the Shankh and while returning he spent the night in the house of a merchant. Ramu told him of his journey to the Himalayas and the wonderful gift he had received. The cunning merchant stole the Shankh from Ramu and replaced it with an ordinary Shankh.

Ramu came back to his house and related to his wife what had happened. They tested the Shankh. But no gold coin appeared. Poor Ramu realized that the merchant had cheated him.

They thought of an idea. Ramu went back to the merchant with an ordinary Shankh and said that he had now a special Shankh, which would produce two gold coins everyday. The greedy merchant took the Shankh from Ramu while he was asleep and replaced it with the magic Shankh.

Next morning Ramu went home with the magic Shankh. After that Ramu and his wife lived happily ever after. The merchant paid for his greed.

Moral: Greed always leads to Misery

Name: Jiger Mody

School: St. Theresa's High School

STD: IX D

The Witty Rabbits

Many years ago, there was a jungle in south India. There was a river, which separated this jungle from other jungles.

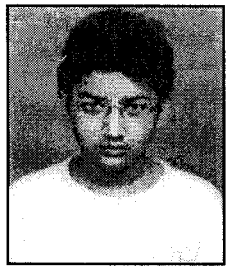
The jungle was big enough for all the animals to live. There were many wild animals like lions, tigers, jackals, bears etc. everyday the animals would come near the river to drink water. There was a trunk of a tree placed to cross the river.

One day, a jackal was trying to cross the river but at the same time another jackal arrived from the other side of the trunk. They both tried to cross the river at the same time but could not. So, they decided to jump over each other and cross the river. They both went a little behind and jumped together, but unfortunately they dashed with each other and fell in the water below. Some birds that were sitting on the nearby trees stated laughing.

After some time, two rabbits came over the same crossing and tried every way to cross but they could not. Both of them started thinking that what they should do now. After thinking for sometime, one rabbit thought of an idea and whispered the idea in the ear of the other rabbit. So, one of the rabbits went a little behind while the other rabbit ran and jumped over the second rabbit and crossed the river. Then the second rabbit got up and started walking. Thus both could reach their destination.

This story tells us that we should use our brains rather than our strength or power.

Moral: Wisdom is stronger than power



Name: Nikhil Modi

School: St. Theresa's High School Bandra

STD: IX B

The Rude Goat and the Bull

Once upon a time, there was a jungle named Nandanvan. There were many animals in this jungle. There was a river, which was full of water throughout the year. Many animals would come to the river to quench their thirst. Among them was a bull, which in spite of being strong and mighty was humble towards others.

One day the bull came to the river to drink water. A lion was waiting behind the bushes near the river for his prey. As soon as the lion saw the bull he wanted to pounce on him. The bull at once noticed the lion and ran away for his life. After a good chase, the bull reached a cave. This cave belonged to a very mean and disgraceful goat. The bull entered the cave and asked the goat to let him stay there till the lion went away. The goat would not allow the bull to stay there and asked him to leave at once. No matter, how hard the bull tried to persuade the goat, he would not let the bull stay in his cave. The goat took advantage of it. Atlast the bull got tired of the goat's rude behavior and said in a ferocious and commanding manner that, "I am in trouble so you are taking advantage of me. But as soon as the lion goes away, I will show you how strong and mighty I am."

Later the bull killed the rude goat.

Moral: Those who take advantage of their neighbor's problems may get into trouble themselves.

Name: Amishi Shah

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VI C

Laziness does not pay

There was once a man named William who lived in New York City. He was very honest and hardworking. He believed in the phrase "Actions speak louder than words." He was a low salaried worker but he did his work with sincerity and efficiency. He had a neighbor called Thomas who belonged to a rich family and had a good deal of money to spend even without working.

Thomas did not do any work, only gambled. He gambled all the time and was lucky: as his opponents were very weak, so he always won. His true friends always told him, to stop gambling but he paid no heed to their advice. Even William, who was a well-wisher, tried to get him out of his habit. Instead of giving up, Thomas asked William to join him in his gambling.

Thomas reminded William that all work and no play would make him a dull man. William had a ready answer and he always replied that all play and no work would make him Thomas, a lazy man. One day it so happened that Thomas was challenged by a victorious player to gamble with him. Thomas thought it would be easy to defeat him and so he started playing. He not only put his entire savings but also his assets like his car and house on bet. After a long game Thomas lost the game along with his savings and assets. He had to finally work hard for a living and had to depend on friends for quite a while. This is when he realized the value of hard work and William's words came back to him.

Moral: Hard work will always bears fruit

Name: Jagruti Punjabi

School: I.E.S. Manik Vidya Mandir Bandra (W)

STD: IX D

The Loyal Dog

This story is a true incident, which took place.

In the last summer vacation, I had gone to our Lonavala house with my mother and my younger sister. First I thought that it would be boring to stay alone at such a lonely place for such a long time. But then I thought that with my two lovely dogs it wouldn't be boring at all.

When we reached there, the gate was locked because our watchman had taken the dogs for a walk. When our dogs saw us from a distance, they went mad with happiness and came running as fast as they could. They were so happy that they kept barking and jumping on us with their tail wagging for a long time.

The days passed very quickly playing with our dogs and only one week was left for our school to reopen. Then one night, in all our fun, we had the shock of our life. After finishing our dinner, we all went to sleep. Then around midnight, our dogs started barking very loudly. All three of us got up and went to the balcony to see for what were the dogs barking. We all were shocked to see that two strangers were trying to open the main door of our house, with the help of a hammer and some knife like things. We were all dumbfounded but then one of our brave dogs straightaway jumped from the balcony and caught hold of one of the robbers with his sharp teeth. The other person tried to hit my dog but by that time our second dog was in action too. Till then our watchmen came and took them away to the police station.

This way our loyal, brave and courageous dogs saved us from those robbers.

Moral: Dog is Man's Best Friend

Name: Nishi Vora

School: GreenLawns High School Breachcandy

STD: VI

Age: 11 years

Careless Tom

It was Tom's birthday. His father Raja bought him a lovely blue-colored bicycle with a white line painted on it.

Seeing Tom elated with joy Raja cautioned his son, "Do not get carried away with joy and take care lest you get hurt or lose the bicycle itself."

Then the next day Tom's uncle Sharmaji came from abroad. As a belated birthday gift Sharmaji presented Tom with elegant pair of Reebok shoes. The cost of this pair was more than 2,000. Seeing both his gifts Tom's happiness knew no bounds.

Tom was very keen to show off his new gifts. Thus wearing his new shoes he rode on his new bicycle and went to his friend's house.

On the way to his friend's house, Tom saw many people standing near a tree. Tom stopped and very curiously asked one man, "What is the matter?" The man replied, "A monkey from china is sitting on the tree with his master."

Leaving his bicycle at the spot he went to see the monkey. After an hour Tom went back only to find his bicycle lost. Tom was very sad.

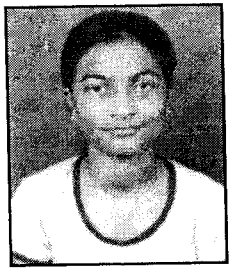
He knew his father would beat him and get very upset. He was scared to go home. He asked some people standing nearby if they had seen a blue bicycle. They said they did not see it.

Tom ran all the way to the Mahalaxmi Temple to pray to get his bicycle back. As Tom was about to go into the temple, a beggar-boy told him, "Hey! You have to remove your shoes before going inside." Obeying the beggar Tom removed his shoes and asked him to take care of them.

As soon as Tom went inside the temple, the beggar boy ran away with the expensive pair of shoes. Tom prayed for the cycle. Tom went outside and found neither the beggar-boy, nor his shoes. Bare footed Tom reached home. His father inquired about his shoes and bicycle. Tearfully Tom narrated the whole story. Overcome with rage Raja said, "Tom! I had warned you, now you have to pay the price."

Poor Tom had no new shoes or bicycle.

Moral: Carelessness never pays



Name: Niyati Nagda

School: Mumbadevi Vidya Mandir
Khar

Careless Vishnu

Once in a small village there lived a boy called Vishnu. He was a very careless and irresponsible boy.

While going home one day, he saw a puppy on the road. He picked it up. Vishnu was so enchanted towards its soft and snow-white fur, that he decided to keep it and named it 'Snowy'.

On reaching home, Vishnu asked his father's permission to keep Snowy as a pet. His father answered, "Vishnu, you aren't old enough to take care of a puppy." Vishnu argued and so his father gave up.

A few days passed. Although Vishnu took good care of Snowy, he sometimes forgot about Snowy's meals. When his father came to know about this, he told Vishnu, "Let the puppy go, you are too young to take its care." But Vishnu had now become popular because of Snowy. So he said, "Papa, give me one more chance, I will try to be careful next time." But he did not.

One day Vishnu forgot to tie Snowy. Snowy slipped out of the house on the streets. When Vishnu noticed Snowy's absence, he became worried. He went out to search for him, he searched many places, but all in vain. While returning he saw Snowy on the village road. When he reached near him, he saw Snowy had been terribly crushed by a bus and was breathing his last.

Tears rolled out of Vishnu's eyes. Had he been more careful, more responsible about Snowy, this wouldn't have happened.

Although he has changed himself now, Snowy still remains in his memory. Vishnu had to pay a huge price to learn a simple lesson.

**Moral: "There is no use crying over spilt milk."
So one must be careful.**

Name: Tanvi Tijoriwala

School: GreenLawns High School

STD: VI C

Age: 11 years

Importance of Hospitality

Once there was a fine goldsmith named Mankichand. He made beautiful gold ornaments with delicate designs. Unfortunately, since there were many jewellers in his town he could not make enough money even though his workmanship was good.

An outsider who was pleased with his work suggested that he should move to Rampur where his jewellery would find a good market.

So, Manikchand told his wife that he would see whether Rampur was really a good place for a jeweller. If it was, he would send for her so they could settle there. The wife readily agreed.

When Manikchand arrived in Rampur, he was told that there were two brother's Divyanand and Nityanand who could offer accommodation to strangers. They said that Divyanand had a better boarding house than Nityanand. So Manikchand decided to try out Divyanand place. Sure enough the rooms were posh and the food was excellent. But Divyanand himself was rude and impolite and the service was poor.

He soon got fed up and shifted to Nityanand's. here the place was neat and tidy but not posh. The food was simple and wholesome but not of the same quality as Divyanand's. but Manikchand was very happy here because the service was excellent. Nityanand himself was polite and friendly and extremely hospitable. He treated all his guests with great respect. Infact, the motto on his read "Atithi Deva Bhava." *(A guest is like a god)*

At the end of the year impressed by Manikchand's work Nityanand ordered all the jewellery for his forthcoming marriage.

Since they had become good friends Manikchand gave him an extra pair of bangles as a wedding gift.

Moral: As you sow, so shall you reap.

Name: Het. V. Dharai

School: GreenLawns High School

STD: IX A

A stitch in Time Saves Nine

Henry was excited as he had just come up with a wonderful idea to pass his time in the mid-term break. He had recently been reading a book on construction and had read about building a tree-house, cozily nested between the branches of high trees and had decided to build one.

Henry excitedly explored the trees in his large garden and found the perfect tree- small branches were jutting out at regular intervals to act as foot and handholds and there were broad flat branches exactly halfway to the top.

Henry began building and soon hard work and perseverance paid off, the tree-house was completed. After its completion, Henry would often be seen playing in it, spending hours on end in his beloved tree house.

One day, towards the end of the break, Henry's father was taking a walk through the garden when he noticed that a large, old branch just above the rug of Henry's tree house was on the verge of falling off. If it fell, it would entirely destroy the tree-house, so lovingly built. He called Henry and bade him cut the branch at once.

Now, Henry was a very active boy but he just wasn't in the habit of doing small things, which however tiny, required great responsibility. As it happened, his friend had come to his house for tea and after his friend left, Henry's mother forbade him to go out. Henry decided to cut the branch off the next day.

But that night, a fearful storm raged, and the branch fell crashing through the tree house and in the morning Henry was horrified that, his tree-house was now an untidy pile of wet planks. What could he do now? If only he had cut the branch off the day

If only he had not been too lazy, if only.....!

Then Henry realized the wisdom behind the proverb: - A Stitch in Time Saves Nine.

Moral: A Stitch in Time Saves Nine.

Name: Sameeksha Hegde

School: St. Teresa's Convent Santacruz (W)

STD: VIII B

Two heads are better than one

Once in John Cathedral High School, the students of class VIII were assigned a project on 'Environment'. It was their 'art work' and they were to get their oral marks. The teacher divided them into ten teams and each team of two students was assigned a project. This assignment had to be completed within a week.

In this class there was a boy named Caillou who was very intelligent but stubborn. His partner Robinson was opposite in nature. But Caillou did not want to share his ideas with Robinson and told him, "Go away Robinson, I don't want you and your ideas. I am the best." Knowing Caillou, Robinson had expected that kind of behavior. So he walked away without a word.

The final day arrived and each group had completed the given project. One was better than the other. As for Caillou and Robinson, their project remained incomplete. The teacher realized what must have happened. Without shouting at them, she explained that if they had worked together as a team, theirs probably would have been the best in the class. Caillou realized his mistake and apologized to the teacher and to Robinson. The teacher gave them one more week to work on the project. They submitted it to the teacher and got excellent marks and also learnt a lesson.

Moral: Teamwork is sure to yield the best results.

Name: Siddharth Jhunjunwala

School: Anandilal Podar High School

STD: VIII

United We Stand

A merchant had five sons. Theirs was a happy and prosperous family. As the sons grew they joined their father in business.

In course of time each of them was married. Their wives too joined the large family. At first, the wives were not happy in the joint family set-up. They all wanted to set up independent homes with unlimited freedom. So one day, one of the wives asked her husband to request his father for his share in the business. So that they could live in a house which they might call their own. Nagged thus by his wife, the son picked up courage to ask his father for his share. Each of the others did the same. The father agreed but said, "Give me evidence of your strength to run an independent household. Bring a log and break it into two or more pieces with your hands."

The log was brought. "We can't break this log" they said without even trying. "How can we break a log without an axe?

"Then axe the log into six pieces" ordered their father.

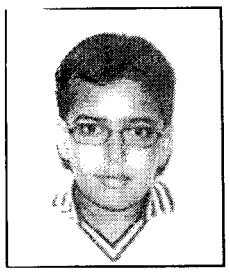
It was easily done. "Now break the piece of wood into two or more pieces," said the father.

It was easily done. "Now break the piece of wood into two or more pieces," said the father.

"Of course!" and each son easily broke the wood.

"Now you understand. So long as we are a united family like the log, nobody can harm or break us. Once we separate we are vulnerable. Anybody can break one of you." Advised the merchant. The sons and their wives learnt their lesson. They agreed to remain in one household. And they lived happily ever after.

Moral: United we stand, Divided we fall



Name: Sharan Bhatija

School: Greenlawns High School Breachcandy

STD: VI C

Age: 11 years

God helps those who help themselves.

Once there lived a poor woodcutter. He earned his living by cutting wood and selling it in the local market. One day he was returning from the forest, it started raining. The mud path to the market became sticky and slippery.

The bullock cart was heavy with the wet wood and moved slowly along the muddy path. Soon one of the wheels got firmly stuck up in the mud of a deep ditch.

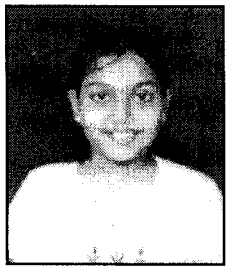
The cart could not move further. The wood cutter tried to pull the bullock cart out, but in vain. The beasts already tired out, sank down into the mud.

Now the woodcutter was really nervous, he looked around to find somebody who would help him. But it was in a lonely place and there was nobody around. At last he said to himself "It is impossible to seek human help now. Let me pray to God and seek his help." So saying he closed his eyes and began to pray to God for help.

When he opened his eyes, he saw an old man standing by his side. Without getting down the cart he requested the old man to help him. The stranger said to him. "You lazy fellow, first get down from the cart and put your shoulder to the wheel and then I will help you. God helps those who help themselves, self help is the best."

The woodcutter was ashamed. He got down and putting his shoulder to one of the wheels pulled hard. The stranger helped him with the other. And behold out came the cart the bullocks could pull it forward. The woodcutter then turned to thank the stranger. He was no where to be soon. The woodcutter wondered it was God himself who had come to help him. By now he realized that God helps those who help themselves.

Moral: We should sincerely perform our duties, and god will always be behind us. God always helps those, who help themselves.



Name: Snehal P. Deotale

School: I.E.S. Manik Vidya Mandir Bandra (W)

DOB: 8th November 1990

The Missing Rings

The famous jewellery shop of the city was closed for the day. It rained heavily and a thief named Hari had broken into the shop the previous night. He had decamped with a dozen diamond rings.

Just as the thief made his way out of the shop, Raman the watchman had nabbed him. The thief was stronger than the watchman. In the fight the thief escaped after hitting the watchman on his head. The watchman fainted.

The police arrived in the morning and questioned Raman. Raman couldn't describe the thief as he had covered his face with a handkerchief. He wore a raincoat, the watchman said.

The police brought along a sniffer dog. Shadow, the dog, had been trained to nab thieves. Shadow led the policemen to a nearby house where Hari lived. When the police approached Hari, he said, "I haven't been out of the house for the past five days. I have been ill."

Suhas, the police inspector, was at his wits end. Without enough evidence he could not arrest Hari. Shadow went up to the raincoat which was hung on the wall and barked at it. Inspector Suhas found that the raincoat was damp. A button was missing in the raincoat.

The inspector suspected that Hari was indeed the culprit. He sent Shadow back to the shop to search for more evidence. Meanwhile, he had couple of policemen guard Hari's house.

Shadow found a huge button as he was sniffing the floor of the shop. Inspector Suhas checked the floor of the shop. Inspector Suhas checked if the button shadow had found on the floor of the shop matched with those of Hari's raincoat. It did. The inspector had enough evidence to arrest Hari.

Hari had to surrender to the police. The rings were returned to the owner of the shop. Everyone congratulated Shadow and inspector Suhas.

Moral: Crime does not pay

Name: Javita Budhrani

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII

Sweet Revenge

Once upon a time there lived a boy called Rohit. He was a big bully. He was rude and mean to all the children. When a small child sat on the swing he would either turn the swing upside down or push it really high so the child who sat on it fell down. Rohit thought he was the smartest boy in the world. He would eat the small children's lunch or grab their lunch money. He would bully and take their sweets and chocolates. All the children were fed up and wanted to teach him a lesson. But they were too scared to face him.

After sometime a new boy Rohan joined Rohit's school. He was huge and well built but very kind and loving. Everyone loved him. Soon, they told him all about Rohit. Rohan was determined to teach him a lesson. The day came when Rohan confronted Rohit and treated him exactly as he had treated the other children in school. Rohit at once realized his mistake and apologized to all the children he had hurt and made friends with them. He was grateful to Rohan for teaching him a lesson. Soon, Rohan and Rohit became best friends and enjoyed their days in school together.

Moral: It is never late to learn.

Who can run without legs?

Ans. Tap

Who has a neck but no head ?

Ans. Bottle

Who has a head but no brains ?

Ans. : Nail pin or matchstick

Name: Jennifer Mehta

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

Joanne and the Golden Eggs

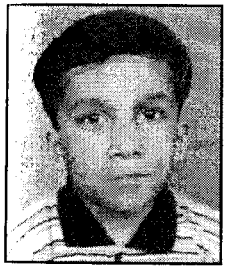
There once lived an orphan girl called Joanne. She was so poor that she sometimes had only a crust of bread to eat. But being kind and generous she even gave it away to the hungry. One day because of her selfless qualities a magician gifted a beautiful white hen. Joanne was surprised to see that the hen laid a solid gold egg. Joanne sold the egg at the jeweler's and with the money bought all the things she needed: food, clothes and other amenities.

From that day onwards she became very rich. But she became disagreeable and pompous. On one occasion she even threw out an orphan boy who begged for a crust of bread. The next day the hen stopped laying golden eggs. Disappointed and angry she yelled at the poor hen and beat her with a broom.

Soon, the magician reappeared before Joanne explaining that it was not the fault of the hen. It was, he said, a punishment for her selfish ways. Saying this he vanished. Joanne, sorry and ashamed of herself, understood that it was a well-deserved punishment.

She changed at once, and started helping out all the poor children in that area. The hen soon began to lay golden eggs once again. So her charity helped everyone in need. Joanne got more pleasure in giving.

Moral: the more you give, the more you will receive



Name: Govind Shorewala

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child

Ramu was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Vora. He was a very disciplined, well-mannered and hardworking child. He used to be the favourite of his teachers as he always used to do his work and stand first in the class.

One day he forgot his book and his teacher gave him a remark. When he went home he showed the teacher's remark to his mother. She was usually strict but said it was okay. It was the first time that she had not shouted at him. He was delighted thinking she would always be like that.

So, Ramu became lazy and did not even do his homework regularly and his mother did not force him to work harder. On the day of the results Ramu's mother hoped that he would stand first as usual. But when she saw his report card she was shocked to find that he had failed.

When Ramu's mother met his teacher, the teacher told her that Ramu was growing lazier day by day. She said the only way to improve him was to be very strict with him. Though it was difficult for the mother, she took the teacher's advice and made him work harder.

At the end of the year she had succeeded in making Ramu a disciplined child. She was delighted when he stood second in the class at the end of the year. His parents were very proud of him.

Moral: You have to be strict when it is necessary.

Name: Ishita Asher G.

School: Rose Manor Garden High School

STD: VIII B

Age: 13 years

The Extraordinary Crop

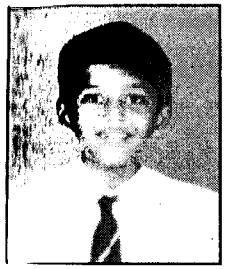
Once upon a time there was a king called Dayasagar. He was a very kind man. He had eleven ministers and a very special court-jester.

The jester's name was Ramlal. He was very wise and intelligent. Therefore the king gave him a lot of respect. Ramlal was very much interested in gardening. So the king liked Ramlal more as he also loved gardening. Seeing the respect of the king for Ramlal, one minister called Narayan got very jealous and tried to play a trick on Ramlal.

One fine day he called Ramlal and gave him a bag of fish eggs. He told Ramlal that they were the seeds of a very different crop. Ramlal came to know about his trick and after going home he made holes in his garden and put one fish egg in each hole. After some days Ramlal called Narayan to his house and showed him the extraordinary crop in the garden. Seeing the crop Narayan was shocked. He asked Ramlal how to grow the crop. Ramlal gave him the exact procedure and Narayan also did the same procedure and waited for the crop to grow.

Many days passed by. Not a single crop grew. Seeing this Narayan immediately called Ramlal and asked him why the crop didn't grow. Ramlal explained everything and Narayan realized his mistake and asked forgiveness. Ramlal forgave him and became friends and later lived happily ever after.

Moral: Be happy with what you have and what you are and never get jealous of anybody



Name: Rishab Vaid

School: Greenlawns High School

Breachcandy

STD: VI B

Age: 11 years

Your Deeds Pay

Long ago in the seas there used to be rocks that jutted out. Many ships used to crash against them and all their sailors met with death.

One such rock was the Demon's Rock. It was the cause of many deaths. A bishop living on the coast used to watch this and grieve. Then one day he had an idea. The bishop rowed out towards Demon's Rock. There he nailed a large bell to the rock.

From that day whenever the ships passed near the rock, they heard the bell clanging and steered away, praising the good bishop who had saved them.

At that time, there used to live many pirates who murdered and looted people and created havoc. It so happened that one such pirate ship was passing by Demon's Rock, when suddenly they heard the bell clanging. They knew that it was the bishop who had nailed the bell there. The pirates' blood was scalding. They themselves did no good and hated those who did so. So burning in jealousy, the pirates broke the bell, and the ships began to meet the same fate as before. In the mean time, the pirates continued with their bad deeds of looting and becoming rich.

It was a dark and stormy night. The same band of pirates were passing through that region. Suddenly there came a loud crash. The ship had hit Demon's Rock! The screaming pirates ran hither-thither, but Alas! None of them survived. The ship sank and that night justice was done.

Moral: One reaps the fruits of what he sows whether sour or sweet.

Name: Sophia Vessab

School: Chimbai Municipal High School Bandra

Age: 13 years

Timely Help

Once when I was crossing the road a lorry hit me, and I fell sideways and I hurt myself. Since I fell on my right side I hurt my right arm and thigh. My nose was bleeding too. I was too weak to get up.

Suddenly a car stopped very close to me. The driver and the girl inside the car stepped out and carried me gently and placed me on the back seat. I was surprised when I recognized the girl. She was Sandy, a senior girl from my school. She usually spoke very little and I had always thought that she was proud and arrogant.

Now, she smiled at me and tried to make me comfortable on the back seat. We stopped at a hospital and she took me in and spoke to the doctor explaining what had happened.

She also phoned up her father to send the money for my treatment. I was so touched that I cried. I realized that she was not proud as I had thought her to be. She was kind and helpful. I thanked her again and again for helping me. She even promised to bring my parents in the evening. I was really very thankful.

Moral: We must not judge people till we know them well.

Which room has no windows,
no doors nor ceiling nor floor ?

Ans. Mushroom

What did one eye say to the other ?

Ans. There is something between us that smells

Name: Vijayshree Chaturvedi

School: St. Joseph's High School, Juhu

STD: VII

The Merchant and the Twelve Companions

There was once a grain merchant called Dhaniram in Ramnagar. He had to go from village to village to buy food grains which he would sell in the city. Dealing with many kinds of people, he became shrewd, confident and efficient.

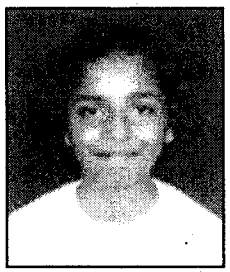
One day, on his way to the neighboring village, he sat under a tree, ate his lunch and rested for a while. Suddenly he woke up and saw four thieves standing in front of him. They said sternly, "Give us everything that you have."

Dhaniram had little cash in his pocket and a sack filled with weights to weigh the grains. He said loudly, "Who do you think you are? Do you think I am alone? Well I have twelve companions with me." He then started hitting the thieves with the sack filled with weights. The thieves had big sticks with them, but still they were frightened of Dhaniram, who was hitting them with all his might. One of them was hit so hard on his face that he fell down and was about to die. Seeing this, the other thieves were frightened and began to run away shouting "Ghost and Beast".

Dhaniram too ran after them with the sack in his hand, and threatened them at the top of his voice. The thieves disappeared in no time.

After finishing his work Dhaniram went home. He narrated to his wife and daughter his encounter with the thieves. His wife admired her husband's presence of mind and praised his bravery. His daughter was also very impressed. She asked him who his twelve companions were. He replied "Ah! I had with me my two legs, two hands, two eyes and four weights in my sack. Well that makes ten of us. My other two strongest friends were my courage and my confidence. Use these twelve companions and they will solve your problems."

Moral: When in trouble, think calmly, be confident and face the situation courageously.



Name: Nelishia Ann D'souza

School: St. Joseph's High School Juhu

STD: VII A

DOB: 4th December

The Great Escape

My father's friend Sam loved mountain climbing and trekking.

On 30th April 1998 he was going up the mountains in Chennai. Half a kilometer from the peak he met four hikers going down and they exchanged greetings. Then, he raced all the way up, eager for the magnificent view from the peak.

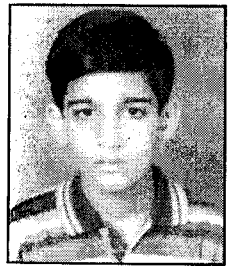
After a sip from the water-bottle he made his way down again. Then he knelt down to pick up a cluster of wild flowers growing on the slope. Suddenly looking up, he caught sight of a lion, lying under a tree, chewing a bone. For a second he froze. Then, with his army knife in his hand, he raced downhill, away from the animal. However, within minutes, the lion overtook him. They both stood face to face and the lion struck his paws into Sam's chest. Then, they tumbled on the ground wrestling desperately. Making a last bid for his life Sam lashed at the lion's face with his knife. The lion began tearing Sam's shoulders with his paws. Once again Sam hit out with his knife attacking the lion's eyes and nose. And when the lion released him he turned round and ran down the slope. Fortunately for him the lion was blinded and could not pursue him.

Praying desperately, he continued to run till he sighted the hikers going down the hill. On the verge of collapse, he gave a last word of warning to the amazed hikers. "Lion, run! Lion, run" he gasped before he fell down, unconscious.

When he opened his eyes he found himself in a hospital bed, covered in bandages. His face, neck, shoulders and arms were full of scratches. However he was alive and on the way to recovery.

In spite of a long search the lion was never found.

Moral: Never lose faith in yourself or god



Name: Rishabh Uttam Parakh

School: Shree Mumbadevi Vidya Mandir

Tel No: 6121544

DOB: 10th December 1988

Politeness Pays

The black night lingered silently on Nehru Street. A cold silvery moonlight dawned over the colony. Not a sound was heard on the roads, but the crying of the street dogs was quite audible. Rishabh and Rohan who were neighbours were sleeping peacefully in their respective houses.

Rishabh was an orphan, but a polite and well-mannered child unlike Rohan, who was completely the opposite. Rohan belonged to a richer family but was spoilt, whereas Rishabh lived with a poor relative, but was disciplined.

Suddenly, the tranquility broke and Rishabh was awakened by the shaking of his arms on which lay Uncle Sam's long and bony fingers. Uncle Sam had come to stay as a new neighbor on the day of the mysterious death of Rishabh's parents.

"Uncle Sam! You, at this time of night. What is the matter?" asked Rishabh curiously.

"Rishabh, first of all, I want to apologize to you for a great mistake of mine." Said Uncle Sam.

"Why, Uncle Sam?" asked Rishabh surprised.

"To be honest, I am an angel, sent upon earth to bear the bitter fruits of my great mistake. I was told by the almighty to cast misfortune on those who are rude to their elders. I mistook this misfortune for death and I erred you to be Rohan as you both look so alike, and your parents were made to "*kick the bucket** by me. I am very much sorry and have come with your parents from whom you have adopted such politeness.

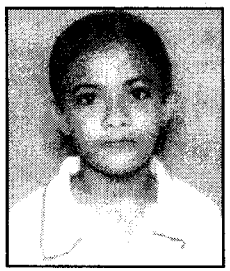
Rishabh was amazed. Bursting out with mixed emotions, he sprang to his feet and hugged his parents to his heart content till they had tears in their eyes.

Then he said to the angel, "It's better to err on the side of mercy. I entreat you to spare Rohan of his would-be deprivation of his parents, now that you came to know that it was Rohan who is rude. Tell God that I promise to make him polite boy.

At this, the angel bowed and disappeared. "well said , my son," said Rishabh's parents "see, because of your politeness, you have earned your parents."

Moral: Politeness goes far, yet costs nothing.

*Kick the bucket : die



Name: Beenish Rizvi
School: Anandilal Podar High School (S.S.C)

STD: VII

Roll No: 16

Age: 11 years

Kindness Pays

Once upon a time there was a young girl named Oshin. She lived with her husband in China. She was hard working and honest. Everyday she used to make delicious food for him. But he was never satisfied and so they quarreled a lot.

One day Oshin went to the Buddhist monk who lived in the mountains near their village. He was learned and people from far and wide came to him. She asked him why her husband was not satisfied with her. She made delicious food, she kept the house clean but he still said that she was lazy. The monk understood her problem and said "Get me the whiskers of a tiger, then I will tell you what to do". Oshin was surprised and asked the monk how could she do it, he told her if she wanted to make her husband happy she has to do it.

The tiger lived in the mountain, the next day she went to the cave and took some meat for the tiger. She kept the food outside the cave and spoke kindly to him. The tiger heard her. She did this everyday but never went in.

One day the tiger came out when he heard Oshin's voice and sat next to her but did not harm her because she was kind to him. She used to pat him. He understood her and was used to her.

Once when Oshin was patting him she quietly removed one of his whiskers and took it to the monk. The monk was surprised and asked her how did she do it. She told her experience. The monk then told her "If you can get the Tiger's whisker, can't you stop arguing with your husband and speak lovingly to him." Oshin understood and from that day she started speaking lovingly to her husband. Slowly he too realized his mistake and started behaving well with her.

Moral: You can win hearts with a little kindness and love.

Name: Karishma S. Pai

School: Chatsworth International School, Singapore

Age: 12 years

Little Abhiram's Faith

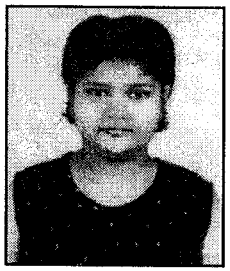
In Gangapur, near Avadhpuri, there lived Ramdhan with his family. Ramdhan was a hardworking farmer. Abhiram was his son.

Little Abhiram liked to go with his father to watch the episodes of Ramleela. Abhiram was so pious and innocent that he thought he was meeting the real Ram. While watching attentively, he would close his eyes and pray. Every night after returning home, he slept engraving "Ram" in his mind. One night, Abhiram felt an urge to have a darshan of Ram. So, he left home early and darted off to the pendal. His anxious eyes were searching Shri Ram. He heard Ram's voice in the green-room, so he peeped in. Sri Ram was pleading the manager to lend him some money; so that he could go home and meet his ailing mother. But the manager refused to pay. Tears started rolling over Ram's cheeks and seeing this, little Abhiram too started weeping because he thought his God was in difficulty. He became uneasy and sad.

Next morning, he got up early and asked his mother to give him Rs.5/-. He had no time for explanation! He ran to the pendal and went straight to "Ram" and in a pleading tone, requested Ram to accept that money, which could bring him some comfort to go and see Kaushalya Mata. Shri Ram accepted it with gratitude. Little Abhiram was very happy. He helped his Lord Ram in a small way, and got blessings! Lord Ram also got the help that he needed badly.

The situation was blissful.

Moral: Faith is the pathway to reality



Name: Heer S. Mehta

School : Savitri Vasant High School

DOB: 16-10-1987

Help to a Needy Patient

"One can pay back a loan but one is forever in debt to kindness"

My mother has always been an active social worker. She always helps the down-trodden and unfortunates. I used to spend most of my free time with her. Looking at her enthusiastic work, it inspired me to do something to help the needy.

Our maid who used to do our dishes and cleaning was very sincere and perfect in her work. She always used to be on time.

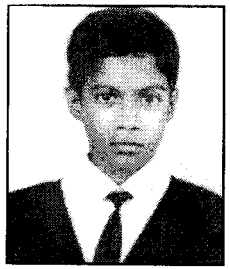
But, slowly as years passed by she became old. She had lost almost everything of hers, and had no place to go. My mother wanted to help her and allowed her to stay with our family.

She was very happy and her joy knew no bound. One day this maid of ours started complaining about some pain in her stomach. My mom got her reports done and to her horror, this lady was suffering from cancer, which was in its final stage. The maid's health started deteriorating day by day, me and my mom tried every possible way for her cure, but all in vain.

The maid now could not work. She used to sleep in one corner of the house. I really felt sorry for her and wanted to help her, but could do nothing.

I did my best to help her by giving her milk and medicines daily while going to school. In the evening I used to serve her dinner, again give her medicines. I also used to massage her legs and her back to comfort her. I used to take her out for a walk, which was necessary for her. But finally she died. I did cry but felt very happy for helping her. I had decided that whatever may happen, I would help the needy.

Moral: Kindness – It lies some where within you, show it to all and the needy.



Name: Kelvin Mendonca

School: Guru Harkrishan High School, Santacruz (W).

STD: VI C

Clean-Bowled

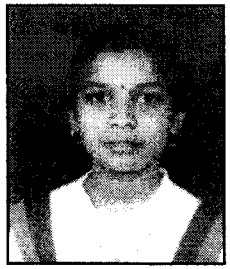
Once upon a time, there were two girls, called Minoo and Arshu who were best friends. Minoo always won every competition in rapid fire questions. One day while playing cricket Minoo hit the ball hard and it broke Mr. Good's window. The next day, Arshu was sick and when Mr. Good asked Minoo who had broken his window pane, she decided to lie and blamed her friend Arshu.

The next day while Arshu was passing that way, Mr. Good caught hold of her, and asked her if she had broken his pane. Arshu shocked that her friend had blamed her and told Mr. Good that she knew a way to get Minoo to tell the truth.

All the girls gathered to play the next day, and right in the middle of the game Arshu called Mr. Good outside and told him that Minoo was very good in rapid fire questions. Mr. Good fired a few questions and Minoo proudly answered them very quickly. Then suddenly Mr. Good asked "Who broke the window pane?" and Minoo answered "Me" without realizing what she had done.

Mr. Good then asked her why she had lied and she said that her mother would not allow her to go to the picnic if she would know about the incident of breaking of the glass. Mr. Good being a kind man told her he would forgive her this time on condition that she would not lie again and get others in trouble.

Moral: Tell a lie and pay the price.



Name: Namrata Karadkar

School: Manek Vidya Mandir

DOB: 4-7-1990

Address: I.E.S. Reclamation
Bandra(W), Mumbai - 50

Magic Raft and Tuna

Long ago, in a small town called Canton in China lived a mad scientist named Tuna. Really he was not a scientist but a crazy fellow who called himself a scientist.

One day Tuna had made a raft. He used to believe that in his father's diary some mantras were written. On saying those mantras anyone could move anything from one place to another. So he told the people that he had a magic raft.

The people came from their house to see the magic raft of the mad scientist. Tuna came with the raft and kept it in the middle of the road. Then he started saying the mantras. But the raft didn't move. The people went away angrily.

Tuna thought why the raft didn't move. He thought and thought. Then he came to know that he forgot to put a drop of water on it. He came outside and called the people again for the second time.

People came out of their houses to see the raft moving. Tuna put a drop of water on the raft and started reciting the mantras. But the raft didn't move at all. This made the people very angry and they marched at once to their houses immediately.

Tuna was surprised and disappointed because the raft didn't move. He did the same experiment on all the things in his house. First he tried to move the tea-pot but it didn't move even after saying the mantras. Then he tried to move the table but it couldn't move.

After doing experiment on all the things of his house he too started believing that the mantras were false. He took his father's diary and burnt it.

Moral: Have faith in yourself.

Name: Aditya Jhaveri

School: Greenlawns High School
Breach Candy

STD: VI B

Triumph of virtue

All through our lives we are told that being virtuous is important. But soon we find that in spite of being virtuous we have to face hardships. At this time we must hold on to the ultimate triumph of virtue.

There was a king named Yudhisthir. He was the eldest of the pandavas. The pandavas had won the throne of Hastinapur from their ruthless cousins, the Kauravas on the basis of Krishna's alliance.

Fifteen joyful years passed and one day very sorrowful news came to Yudhisthir's court. Krishna had passed away. The brother's were grief stricken and resolved to renounce the world and go to heaven to meet Krishna.

Heaven was on the top of Mt. Meru and they would have to climb without eating or drinking anything to reach the heaven. They started their journey. One by one all the brothers fell and died, but Yudhisthir marched on towards his goal of meeting Krishna. After all his brother's had passed away Yudhisthir looked back once. He saw that a dog had joined him and was giving him company.

They finally reached the top of Mt. Meru to be showered with celestial flowers. The chariot to heaven was standing there with the door ajar. Indra was standing there. He told Yudhisthir to get into the chariot. Yudhisthir told the dog to go in first. The god stood aghast. He told Yudhisthir that there was no place in heaven for a dog.

Yudhisthir argued that the dog had been his faithful companion throughout the journey. Indra finally agreed to let the dog into heaven on the condition that Yudhisthir would exchange heaven with him. Yudhisthir agreed. At once the scene changed. The dog revealed himself as Yama-the God of justice. He told Yudhisthir that he was the most unselfish and the most virtuous of all mortals and that there was permanent place in heaven for him.

The gods took Yudhisthir to heaven in the celestial chariot. Thus, ends the story of the Mahabharata setting forth the sublime poem-The Triumph of Virtue.

Moral: The Triumph of Virtue

Name: Zoya Dadarkar

School: GreenLawns High School

STD: VII B

Roll No: 3

A hostile neighbor

I once had a neighbor called Mr. Larkin. He was a thin, short man with beady, shiny eyes and shaggy eyebrows. He had an unkempt beard and moustache and a crooked nose as well as broken, yellow teeth. All the neighborhood children were afraid of him and so was i. To make things worse he had this huge, ferocious bull dog that drooled and had teeth ten times worse than his masters.

None of the children had the courage to talk to him or even wish him as all he would do was snarl back at us, call to his dog that would growl at us and shuffle away. His house which was an ancient one had an ominous, sinister air about it. It used to cast shadows on its high walls because there would be only one small flickering light in the corner of the house giving it an eerie look.

One stormy day the door of Mr. Larkin's house was ajar and the rain was lashing into the house wetting everything. We rushed in and closed the door and windows. But as we came out we saw that the old man had returned and stood staring at us making a shiver run down our spines. We had this suspicious feeling that he would let his dog loose on us *(or maybe wave a magical wand that would freeze us alive!!!)*

A couple of months later all this was in the past and forgotten. One evening two burglars entered my house when only my sister and me were at home. They tried to gag us and even tried tying us to a nearby chair. All of a sudden there was a loud bark and the burglars were pulled back and thrown on the floor. Mr. Larkin's ferocious bull dog had charged at them and they had to run for their lives. When we were untied and ungagged we turned to Mr. Larkin, a question in our eyes and fear mingled with gratitude. Slowly a smile dawned on his face that seemed to say.

This incident has taught me not to judge people by outward appearances.

Moral: Not to judge people by outward appearance.

Name: Hiral Vyas

School: Shree Mumbadevi Vidya Mandir, Khar

Princess and the Tulips

When Germany invaded Holland, Princess Juliana was forced to leave her country and take asylum in Canada where she lived with her family for five years. They were able to return to their homeland only when the war ended.

The princess did not forget the land and people who had helped in the fight to free her country. She wanted to express the gratitude in a proper manner. What treasure was she to give them to express her thanks?

Princess Juliana was a lover of flowers. She even gave the name of 'Marigold' to her new-born daughter. Holland is known as the kingdom of tulips. She decided that the treasure she was going to give the Land of Snows was in the form of Tulips. When the snows melt at the end of long winters, her gift of bulbs will bloom into thousands of multicoloured flowers, signaling the coming of spring to gladden the hearts of those who behold them.

After the war ended, the Dutch Royal family sent 100,000 tulip bulbs to which Juliana added another 20,000 bulbs as her personal contribution to thank Canada for playing an important role in the liberation of Holland.

About one million tulips bloom now in Ottawa each spring attracting people from the entire world over to participate in the Annual Canadian Tulip Festival.

Moral: A Blossoming plant that pleases the eye, year after year, is not less precious than gold or silver.

Name: Amish Shah

School: Manekji Cooper High School

The Perfect Solution

Once upon a time there lived a couple in the small town of Capri. They were Harry and Tina. They were very poor and hardly had enough to eat. They somehow managed to run the house but had lots of debts.

They always fought over small things. One day they had a very bad fight. All the neighbors came out and saw Harry throwing Tina out of the house.

Poor Tina had nowhere to go. She managed to find a house where she could stay as long as she worked for that lady. The lady was good and Tina lived quite comfortably. But she missed her husband and home.

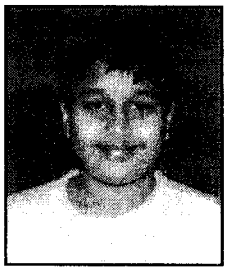
Henry was not happy either. He realized that he had been wrong. When Tina was there he used to at least get something to eat; now there was nothing. His life had been miserable.

He started searching for Tina. Someone in the neighborhood told him where she was staying. He requested her to forgive him. At first, she was reluctant but later agreed. When they came back home, they worked out a plan. Tina told Harry that she would also take up a job but Harry would have to help her in the housework, as she could not do both. Harry agreed to the idea.

Soon, both of them were doing their jobs and working together at home. At the end of the month they had double of the money. Slowly they were able to clear all their debts.

Now they had food to eat and were content as they were no arguments or fights at home. Thus they lived happily after that.

Moral: United we stand, divided we fall.



Name: Sameer Kothari

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII A

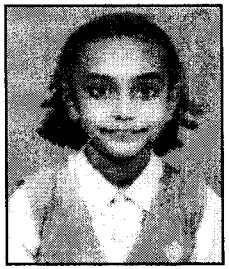
The Loyal Nurse

One day in the city of Bhikampur, there lived a Rajah whose name was Hodja. A son was born to Hodja, but he didn't celebrate much as the mother died in childbirth. Hodja saw that his son needed the love of a mother.

So Hodja hired a young nurse Pannadasi with a baby. She did the job very well, she nursed both babies together. She took care of them and fed them as a real mother would. One day, the enemies of the Rajah plotted to kill his son. A month later on the birthday of the Prince, Hodja's enemies bribed the guards and got into the palace. He took the enemies quite some time to get past the guards and before they could reach the prince, the nurse was warned about them. At first she didn't know what to do, but after some time she got an idea. She switched the two children's dresses, and as she did not want the prince to be harmed she sacrificed her own child's life by placing him in Prince's bed.

Then she saved the life of the prince by carrying him away to safety. The enemies entered the room and killed the nurse's son who was left behind and the real Prince was saved. Hodja then wished to reward her for saving his child from the enemies, but the nurse wished nothing. Grieved by the death of her son, she soon killed herself. The Rajah mourned her death and erected a tomb to commemorate her loyalty.

Moral: Self sacrifice prevails.



Name: Jigisha M. Saraiya

School: Guru Harkrishan High School

The Brahmin and the three Rogues

One morning a Brahmin was walking along a lonely path. He had a goat with him. Three rogues saw the Brahmin and his goat.

One of the rogues said, "I wish we could get this plump goat from him."

Another one said, "Let us run away with the goat. This fat Brahmin can't chase us."

The third one said, "There is no need of running away. I have a brilliant idea." And he told his friends the trick that he had in his mind. They liked the trick very much. They decided to try the trick on the Brahmin.

So one of the rogues went to the Brahmin and said, "Good morning, sir. This dog of yours looks very smart. Is he trained dog?"

The Brahmin looked at the man angrily and said, "Go away, stupid fellow. It is really funny that you mistake a goat for a dog."

"Will you consider me a wise man if I say that your dog is a goat? HA! HA! HA!" said the rogue and went away.

After a while, another rogue came to the Brahmin and said, "Good morning, learned sir, I wonder why are you walking when you can very well ride on this pony of yours."

The Brahmin said, "My goodness! Do you think this goat is a pony?". "I thought you were a learned Brahmin. But now I understand that you are a fat head who knows no difference between a pony and a goat".

Some time later, the Brahmin was approached by the third rogue.

The third rogue said, "Good morning, holy priest. Why have you selected this donkey as your fellow traveler?"

The Brahmin asked nervously, "Is this animal a donkey?"

"Of course, it is," said the rogue in an asserting tone.

Now the Brahmin was very much frightened. He thought that the goat was really a monster, which changed his form from time to time. So he ran away, leaving the goat behind.

The three rogues laughed heartily and took the goat in their possession.

Moral: Don't change your opinion simply because others do not agree with you.

What is served but not eaten ?

Ans. A tennis ball.

Why are false teeth like stars ?

Ans. : Because they come out at night.

Why did a leopard refuse to take a bath in the detergent?

Ans. : Because it did not want to come out spotless.

What did one wall say to the other ?

Ans. I'll meet you at the corner.

How do you know that the elephant doesn't trust anyone ?

Ans. : Because it carries its trunk wherever it goes

Name: Sunandita Kanjilal

School: Smt. Savitri Vasant High School, Santacruz (W)

DOB: 27-6-1987

Copying 'Time'

Mr. Rustom Gandhi was the owner of the most reputed watch shop in Lower Parel. He looked very impressive as he walked to his shop every day in his black sherwani, maroon skull cap and gold rimmed glasses. He stopped swinging his black ebony cane when he paused to pull out his fob-watch from his pocket to check the time. Mr. Gandhi was obsessed with time and reached the shop exactly at 9:30 a.m. everyday.

His beautiful shop was filled with exquisite watches, time pieces and clocks from all over the world. There was one grandfather's clock which he would never sell because it was special to him. He used to wind it himself every day.

When he entered the shop he invariably saw Mr. Pradeep Bhatia, who would peep into the shop before he hurriedly left for his factory. Somehow, they never had the chance to meet.

One day, Mr. Gandhi, who was putting up a new sign-board outside his shop, smiled at Mr. Bhatia who was passing by. "Hello", he said. "I've always wondered why you stop everyday but never visit the shop."

Mr. Bhatia replied, "I'm the General Manager of the cotton mill close by and I stop to check the time on your grandfather's clock, because it is reputed to be accurate." Mr. Gandhi burst into laughter and said, "Do you know sir that I have been adjusting the time on the grandfather's clock according to the 10 o'clock siren of your factory."

They shook hands and became friends.

Moral: Imitation is the best form of admiration.

Name: Anandita Kanjilal

School: Smt. Savitri Vasant High School, Santacruz (W)

DOB: 27-6-1987

Love Rules

Fifteen year old Bhola lived in the village of Jambhal near Jaipur in Rajasthan. He lived with his parents and two younger sisters Preeti and Geeta.

Being poor, he could not go to school. He helped his father till the land and tend the livestock. Their small piece of land produced crops which barely met their requirements. Bhola sent his sisters to school, while he himself worked on the farm.

He loved his work because he loved animals and treated them like friends. Though his father had no patience, Bhola could coax the animals to work without scolding or hurting them. Naturally they responded to his loving care.

The buffaloes looked healthy and happy under his care. The cows and she buffaloes gave more milk. Bhola's father was secretly proud of his son's special talents. Soon, the neighbors noticed his skills. Gradually, the whole village began to appreciate his knack for handling cattle. They came to him to consult him.

Since they had "Melas" from time to time, Bhola's fame spread to other villages nearby. Many farmers from the neighboring villages approached him for advice and guidance. So he became a livestock consultant.

Everyone marveled at the skill he had imbibed without technical education. Only those who knew him closely realized that his wisdom came from his deep love for animals.

Moral: Love conquers all

Name: Smriti S. Ananda

School : Savitri Vasant High School

STD: IX

DOB: 23-12-1987

Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

On a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamt of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree said, "I want to be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree said, "I want to be traveling through the mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree said, "I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God." Years passed, the rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three wood cutters climbed the mountain. The first wood cutter with a swoop of his shining axe cut down the first tree. The two other wood cutters cut down the second and the third trees respectively.

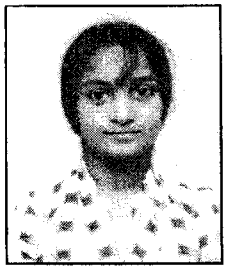
The first tree rejoiced when the wood cutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the wood cutter took her to a shipyard. The strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was taken to a little lake.

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young women placed her newborn baby in the feed box. I wish you could make a cradle for him", her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled. When her beams were cut from the forgotten wood pile, she flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her.

Moral: Do not be dejected if things do not go the way you want them to go, there must be something that God wants to offer.



Name: Aayushi P. Sangani

School: Anandilal Podar High School

Std.: VIII

Age: 14 years

A True Love Story

There was a cute and a sweet boy named Jack. He was just 19 years old. Jack was suffering from cancer. His parents did not allow him to go anywhere outside the house. Jack wanted to see the outside world before he steped in to the heaven. He requested his parents to allow him to go outside and enjoy his remaining part of life. The permission was granted and he set out on his first journey in the busy street of New York.

He was a beautiful girl named Jennifer. He walked towards the girl and stood in front of her. Jennifer asked, "Can I do something for you sir?" Jack said, "Ya! One CD please." Jennifer asked, "Which one?" Jack said "Any one of your choice." Jennifer asked, "Do you want gift packing?" Jack said, "Yes". By the time she did gift packing Jack looked at Jennifer with a loveable look. Ya! It was love at first sight. Jack told this incident to his Mom. Mom asked her name. Jack said he does not know anything about her, but he loves her. Mom insisted that he ask her name and increase friendship. But Jack was afraid to talk with Jennifer face to face. But he promised his mom that he will try his best.

Next day Jack repeated the same conversation with Jennifer. By the time she did gift packing Jack looked at Jennifer with a loveable look. The gift packed CDs that Jack collected from Jennifer were kept inside the cupboard without even opening. This incident of buying the CDs continued for a month so. One day while Jennifer was packing the CDs for Jack, he left his telephone number at the CD counter for her. This day was Saturday. Shop remained closed on Sunday. And on Monday when the shop re-opened Jennifer did not find Jack at his usual time. As Jack had not visited the shop so she telephoned Jack.

Jack's Mom picked up the phone and Jennifer asked, "Can I speak to Jack, please?" Jack's Mom asked, "May I know who is speaking?" Jennifer says, "I am a girl from the CD shop called Jennifer." Jack's mom replied, "I am sorry to tell you, but Jack passed away yesterday." Jennifer kept the phone down and cried,

Jack's Mom knew that she was the only girl which her son loved the most in the world.

She wants to keep Jack alive in her heart by sitting in Jack's room and seeing all his momentum and things which were used by him daily. She started with Jack's cupboard. She found that there were 30 to 40 gift packed CDs which were unopened. She opened one CD; she found a hand written note. She opened another CD, she found the same note. Slowly she opened all the CDs, it contained the same notes and she burst out crying. The note contained that "Hi! My name is Jennifer I found you very sweet and cute. Can I have a date with you?"

Moral: If you love someone, don't wait till tomorrow to tell him/her. May be the next day will never come at all.

Why is "smiles" the longest word in the English language ?

Ans. : Because there is mile between one 's' and the other

When is a door not a door ?

Ans. : When it is a jar.

Why is the letter 'V' like a mad dog ?

Ans. : Because it comes after 'U'.

Why is the letter 'T' like an island ?

Ans. : Because it is in the middle of water.

Name: Shivani Shah

School : Anandilal Podar High School

DOB: 10-11-1984

The Art of Thinking

There was a merchant who owed money to the moneylender, who was an old and ugly and fancied the merchants teenage daughter. Since the merchant was unable to pay the sum, the moneylender gave a proposal. He told them that he would put a black and a white pebble into an empty moneybag and then the girl would have to pick out any one of the pebbles. If she chose the black pebble, she would become his wife and her father's debt would be cancelled. And if it was the other way round then also her father's debt would be cancelled and she would stay with her father but if she refused to pick up the pebble, her father would be thrown into prison and she would starve.

The merchant and her daughter agreed. They were standing on a pebble-strewn path in the merchant's garden, where the moneylender bent down and picked up two black pebbles and put them into the moneybag. The girl, sharp eyed with fright, noticed this. The girl could have refused to take the pebble or could have shown that there were two black pebbles in the bag, but she did neither of the things!!! What she did was that she put her hand into the money bag and drew out a pebble. Without looking at it she threw it in the path where it was immediately last among all the others.

"Oh, how clumsy of me", she said, "but never mind. If you look into the bag you will be able to tell which pebble I took by the colour of the one that is left." Since the remaining pebble is of course black, it must be assumed that she had taken the white pebble. The moneylender just stood looking, his mouth agape!!! He dared not admit his dishonesty.

Moral: If the obstacles are above you, jump over it If it is under you, crawl through it.

Name: Chirag Gutt

School: Anandilal Podar High School

Std.: VII

DOB: 4th December 1989

Friends

Once upon a time in a village of Udaipur therewere two best friends one was Sonu and the other was monu. Sonu belonged to a family of a farmer and Monu belonged to a family of potter. Even then both were best friends. Sonu and Monu were of same age, they went to same school and they used to live near by each other.

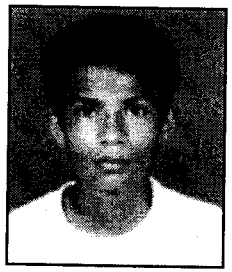
Sonu used to help Monu in his studies. He always shared each and everything with Monu. He always helped Monu to take right decisions and he used to guide Monu about good and bad things. Sonu always wanted that Monu should become successful in life. Monu was a nice guy and he loved Sonu very much, but he had a friend named Pratham who was not good. He always wanted to break Sonu and Monu's friendship. He always used to give Monu bad ideas.

One day in school Raju had brought a very beautiful pen-set. He showed it to everybody. It was the recess time and nobody was there in the classroom. Pratham and Monu entered the room.

Pratham told Monu that "Just take out the pen-set I want to see" Monu took it out. Pratham told "It is very beautiful, let us keep it" Monu. Told him that it is wrong but Pratham forced and tempted Monu. To do the stealing. The recess finished and all boys came to class. When Raju opened his bag he was shocked to see that his new pen set was missing. He started crying and informed to the class teacher. The teacher started checking bags. Monu had got frightened so he kept the pen set in Sonu's bag. Sonu saw it, but he remained silent. Teacher found the pen set in Sonu's bag and the teacher beat up Sonu.

Monu did not like it. He was very sad and he came to Sonu. Sonu said "Monu I knew you had stolen the pen-set. I saw you put pen set in my bag, you are my best friend and I couldn't bear if the teacher had beaten you. Hearing this Monu got ashamed of himself; he fell to Sonu's feet and started crying. Sonu lifted him up. Monu told "I am sorry for the stupid behavior" Sonu forgave Monu and told him not to do this again. Monu stopped talking to Pratham and he broke his friendship with him.

Moral: True friends are very rare



Name: Iliyas Rander

School: Anandilal Podar High School

DOB: 15-8-1988

Birbal Strikes it Rich

Once Akbar threw his gold ring into a dried up well and he asked his ministers to retrieve it without climbing down into the well.

The ministers scratched their heads and thought deeply but soon they had to admit defeat. Birbal, however could never resist a challenge.

"Jahanpanah, you shall get back your ring before sundown", he declared.

He took some fresh cow dung from the ground and threw it on top of the ring. He then tied a stone to one end of a long piece of string and retaining the other end, threw the stone on the dung. After a while when he felt sure that the cow dung had completely dried, he pulled the string. To everyone's surprise the cow dung came up, and stuck at the bottom was the emperor's ring.

Moral: Everything is possible, nothing is impossible

Why does A run away ?

Ans. : Beacuse a B comes after it.

From the word 'ELEPHANT ' TRY
to make 65 or more words
with 3 and more letters
eg : LET.

Name: Simran Jit Gill

School: St. Joseph High Schhol

Std.: VIII A

The Good and the Evil

Once upon a time in a village of Punjab lived two friends. Mohan was a good man and Sohan was an evil hearted man. Mohan always used to do good deeds and Sohan always used to harm others with his evil mind. As time passed by there was a flood in the village which caused destruction of life and property which led these friends to look for a job elsewhere to earn their livelihood. Hence, they decided to go to the city and look for a job. They took all their belongings and savings along with them. On the way to the city Sohan was thinking, "If I kill my friend, I can take the possession of my friend's belongings and savings."

Walking all day long they stopped at night for rest near a well. They decided to cook food for themselves. Hence, Sohan ordered his friend to fetch water from the well. During the course, Sohan pushed Mohan into the well. Thinking his friend was dead, Sohan took his friends belongings and money and proceeded to the city. Here in the well, by the grace of God, Mohan survived and remained in the well on a ladder step.

In the well there also lived two more friends. One was the snake and the other was a ghost. Every night they used to meet and exchange their sorrows and happiness. That night, during the conversation, the snake spoke, "If anybody pours water from the well on the banyan tree he can possess all the gold, diamond and precious stone which can make him rich and I will leave that place of mine." The ghost also spoke up, "I live very comfortably in the King's daughter's body. I enjoy all the luxuries of life and if anybody bathes the princess with this water I will leave the princess body and go else where."

Next day morning Mohan shouted for help and survived with the help of the villagers. Since, he had heard the conversation of the snake and the ghost he proceeded to the king's palace. There he heard from the guards that the King's daughter is not well and if anyone cures her, he shall marry the princess. Mohan already carried water from the well. He told the king that he can cure the princess and the king should fulfill the promise by marrying the

princess to him. Now he proceeded to the banyan tree where he poured water and realised that he was standing on a land full of gold, diamonds and precious stones. He became rich and lived happily ever after.

One day Sohan passed by Mohan's house. He heard that his friend has become very rich. He asked his friend how he became rich. Mohan narrated the whole story. Sohan forced his friend to take him to the same well as he also wanted to become rich. He tells Mohan to push him in the well. But Mohan refuses. Hence Sohan jumps into the well. Here again, he sits on the ladder step waiting for the snake and the ghost to come. After some time the ghost and the snake reached the well and again exchanged their sorrows and happiness. But to make sure that nobody was listening to their conversation because last time they had to leave their comfortable homes, they looked around and noticed a person sitting in the well. They both attacked and killed him.

Moral: Good deeds always lead to success and evil deeds lead to misery and death.

What has an eye but can not see ?

Ans. : A needle.

What has teeth but cannot bite ?

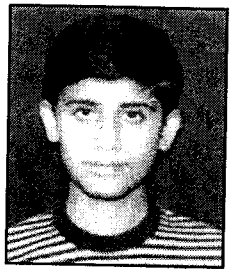
Ans : A Comb.

Why is whispering prohibited in Company ?

Ans. : Because it is not aloud (allowed)

What burns to keep a secret ?

Ans. : Sealing wax



Name: Devandar Parmar

School : Sacred Heart Boys School Santacruz West

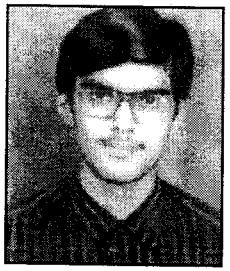
Another Chance

Ruby and Vinay were furiously arguing over the breakfast table. "You are stupid Ruby!" shouted Vinay. "That's enough, now apologize to your sister, Vinay!!" said his father. "Okay Ruby I am sorry that you are stupid!!" Vinay was a very mischievous boy. He was good in studies and always stood 1st in class. But he had earned a reputation in his class of being the naughtiest boy.

That day, while returning from school, Vinay passed by Mr. Mehra's house. He saw the clothes drying out on the clothesline in Mrs. Mehra's backyard. The house looked deserted. Vinay thought for a moment and then said to himself, "there is nothing wrong in a bit of fun, but what if?" He couldn't stop himself. He quickly jumped over the wall and entered the backyard. Then he immediately took out his penknife from his bag and cut the clothesline. The clothes fell down and became dirty due to the mud lying on the ground.

That evening there was a knock at the door. Vinay opened the door and.. Saw Mrs.Mehra standing in front of him!!! His legs trembled as he walked back to his room. Mrs. Mehra and Vinay's mother sat down to talk. "What could they be talking about? Suppose Mrs. Mehra has told my mom about what happened today afternoon. Then I surely would get beaten!" He was very tensed. Quietly Vinay took a peep through the door and saw Mrs. Mehra. Suddenly Mrs. Mehra saw him! Vinay's heartbeat went faster and he went and ley down on his bed and started crying using his pillow and a handkerchief. His sister teased him. But Vinay was too depressed to even fight back. Vinay fell asleep while crying and when he woke up he was surprised to see Mrs. Mehra gone. Immediately he ran to the kitchen and cuddled up to his mother and asked, "Maa, what was aunty here for? Did she say anything about me? "His mom said, "Aunty was here just to pay a visit and she even gave these lovely chocolates. She was also complaining about her son who does not study like you and is very bad mannered. She also wished that her son would be like you!!" Vinay breathed a sigh of relief. He decided to mend his ways and be a good boy.

Moral : Standing 1st is not enough, one should be good natured.



Name: Rohit Sunny Thomas

School: Sacred Heart Boy's High School Santacruz (W).

STD: IX A

Kerala! What a beautiful place? God's own land!

I was staying in Kerela with my parents and little sister. My sister and me were very good friends. I could not control the temptation of playing cricket with my sister. The game was paused as we heard a voice pleading for help. "Brother please help me." It sent shocked waves in us but gathering courage I went out to see and found that an injured old man was calling out for help. I gave him water and applied ointments on his wounds. He gratefully looked at me and gave me a map that contained certain details in it. I learnt that his name was Devdas and that if I were to follow the details then I could get some treasure.

He also told me to chant his name if I needed help and he disappeared. When I followed the map I found that I had to go to a near by island. So sister, my Niel, and I my friend went out on pretext of playing. We crossed the lake and reached the island. When we reached there some bad people chased us and asked us to follow them. I suddenly hit upon a plan. I began screaming that there was a ghost and thus we saved ourselves and ran away. We then followed the map and found the treasure. And as we were about to leave an old man appeared who looked like Devdas and asked me certain questions like "What is the fastest thing on earth?" without hesitation I quickly replied "Speed of thought." "What is man's weakness?" "Greed."

And many other questions were asked and as he was pleased with our general knowledge. He asked us to take it to our house. When we opened the treasure box we found that there was a note, which indicated that it must be kept where it belonged. And we went to that island and kept it back in its right place. The old man saw this and he rewarded us for our honesty by giving us gifts and gold chains. Thus our deeds surely paid dividends.

Moral: Honesty is surely the best policy.

Name: Nishit Morsawala

School : Sacred Heart Boys School
Santacruz West

STD: VII B

The story of the truth

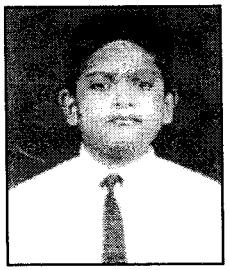
Once upon a time, there were two friends whose names were Paul and Peter. Paul was a very mischievous but, however, he would always tell the truth. His friend Peter was very quiet, sensitive and kind boy. He always tried to warn Paul into not being mischievous but in vain.

One day they both were walking in the market and they saw a man selling pots. Paul, as usual, wanted to do something mischievous and decided to do it. When the potter called Kumbhi had gone to eat his lunch, Paul, quietly sneaked in the shop and took them into a bag and broke them. When Kumbhi came back and saw that his pots had been stolen, he was livid with rage. Soon there was a crowd around him. He started asking everybody whether they had seen anybody near his store when he had gone out for lunch.

One man, said that he had, seen John, the fruit seller, loitering around his store. They immediately sent for John, who denied stealing any of the man's pot. They started fighting and then the village chief said that they would settle it in the king's court. Both the men agreed and set out for court. When Paul and Peter saw the procession, they too joined it and they went to the king's castle with them. When the king inquired why they had come to court the two men immediately started fighting again. Kumbhi said, "Your majesty, when I had gone for lunch John came to my store and stole my pots." John immediately defended himself saying, "Your majesty, I agree that I had come near his store but I had not touched a thing." Hearing this, the amused king said, "John many other witnesses saw you. Therefore I have reached the conclusion that you had stolen the pots after all."

Then, Paul's conscience started pricking him. Paul decided that he should tell the truth. He went up to the king and said, "Your majesty, it was I who stole the pots and not John." The king however hugged the two boys and said, "It takes a lot of courage to be honest like that and so I am letting you go without any punishment."

Moral: Honesty is the best policy



Name : Peter A. Dias

School : Sacred Heart Boys School
Santacruz (W)

The rich kind girl

Lyra was a rich girl who lived with her parents in a big house. She went to school by car everyday. However, Lyra was a simple girl. She had many friends; her best friend was Patsy.

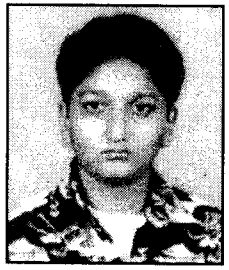
Patsy was a poor girl who walked to school everyday. Her daddy was ill, and her mummy had to work very hard to earn money to look after their home.

One morning Lyra was going to school in her car when she saw Patsy walking slowly on the road. She looked tired and weak. Lyra felt sorry for her. She told the driver to stop the car and asked Patsy to come in. On the way Lyra said, "Patsy, from tomorrow please don't walk to school. Wait for me at the stop and I will pick you up every morning." "Thank You, Lyra. You are very kind.", said Patsy.

Lyra asked Patsy to join her at the canteen everyday for lunch, and she forced her to have a meal. She gave her sandwiches, samosas and ice cream; Lyra paid for everything. Patsy was very happy to have such a loving friend and she felt better everyday. She was not tired or hungry any more. She studied very hard. That year she obtained the second prize in her class for English and social studies.

After a few years Lyra and Patsy finished school. Patsy thanked Lyra for her love and kindness. "It is because you helped me when I was in need, that I am now strong enough to study and work," she said. "I will never forget you Lyra. Someday, when I am capable to do so I will reach out and help the poor."

Moral: We must always help those in need, and our world will become a better place.



Name: Apoorva Danthi

School: Sacred Heart Boy's High School Santacruz (W).

STD: VIII A

Roll No: 9

Ashiq the clever

Far away, in the mountains of central Asia, is the country called Kirgahizstan. In that beautiful land of tall mountains and sparkling streams there was a little shef hard boy called Ashiq. He was an orphan and he was ten years old. Ashiq took the goats and sheep in the grasslands of the forest to let the sheep and goats to graze.

Once, as usual he left the sheep and goats to graze and sat at the corner of a pond he saw a frog whose right leg, was injured. He soon tore a piece of cloth from his garment and bandaged the frog. The frog was very pleased and gave Ashiq a green pebble and jumped into the pond. Ashiq took the pebble and made his way to the village. As he came near the village he saw something had happened, people were running about here and there, some women were sobbing loudly, and old men with grey beards were talking excitedly under a big walnut tree.

Ashiq went near the group under the tree to find out what had happened. One of the old men told Ashiq that a horseman had come from neighboring country and had said that the chief of the neighboring country KalaKhan would loot this country Kirgahizstan. He said that they could be saved if a messenger would come not riding a horse or camel nor foot. He also said that other countries had sent messengers with which rich gifts but they never went back.

Ashiq thought for a while and said, "Give me an old billy goat to go to KalaKhan."

"You" said one of the elders of the village. "Yes me" said Ashiq. "Did you hear KalKhan's conditions?" "Yes" said Ashiq set off to KalaKhan.

As soon as KalaKhan saw Ashiq he said "They weren't anymore elders in village." Ashiq said, "This goat is old and represents elder in a village.

This made Khan very angry and he strictly ordered to send Ashiq to jail and unless he paid a ransom of hundreds black horses, five hundred camels, and a thousands of brocade robes, he would be sentenced to death.

Poor Ashiq did not know what to do. Soon he remembered about the green pebble. He removed the pebble and wished for the required amount of money or his death was inevitable next day. At once a beautiful woman appeared with big black eyes and a long braid of thick hair.

She listened to Ashiq's tale of woe and then told him, "Everything will be arranged. But be careful about Khan, he is very cruel and merciless; keep this comb, needle and mirror. You may need them to save yourself."

The next day as the Khan's men came and took him in front of Khan, Ashiq however managed to run away, as he ran with the needle a forest came in the middle and they had to return. Khan got furious and chopped their heads. Then he sent his personal guards. Ashiq this time threw the comb and a huge mountain appeared. Again the guards returned Khan got angry, more than before and chopped their heads.

Khan this time came himself riding his faithful horse Talpar. It came through the forest jumped over the mountain. Ashiq heard the tapping of horse and ran. Talpar was only a few feet away, when Ashiq removed the mirror and threw it. A river appeared and Talpar and Khan were drowned in the river.

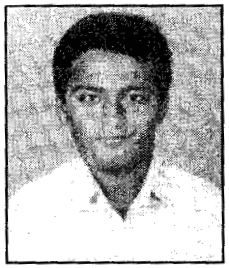
Moral: Kindness pays

Why is a talkative man like a pig ?

Ans. : Because he can become a great bore (boar)

What is found in the middle of America and Australia ?

Ans. : "R"



Name: Royceton Roger D'cunha

School: Sacred Heart Boy's High School. Santacruz (W).

STD: VIII A

Rude Raju

Once there was a little boy named Raju who was very rude to everyone around him. His parents hardly talked to him because he spoke to them very rudely. His teacher did not bother about him because they knew he would speak sharply to them. The principal had scolded him many times but Raju would only sulk and put his head down. Then he would go back to his rude ways.

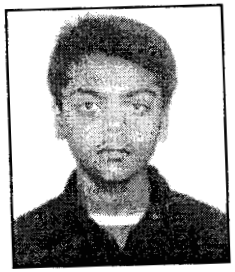
No one in the class spoke to him or went near him for they knew Raju would have something nasty to say to them. There was one little boy, Narendra, who had newly joined the school. Somehow he took a liking to Raju. But Raju would be rude to him as well. If Narendra offered him food Raju would snap at him and say, "Do you think I am a beggar?" And if Narendra tried to help Raju in his home work Raju would insult him.

One evening it was quite late and Raju was returning from the shop where he had gone to buy some sweets. The road was lonely and a few stray dogs began following him. They growled and barked at him and Raju got afraid. He started running and the dogs began to chase. Now, Raju was truly frightened. He screamed for help.

As luck would have it he passed by Narendra's house. He hesitated for a moment and then ran up to the door and rang the bell Narendra came and opened the door wide and let Raju in. Then with a stick he frightened away the dogs that had chased Raju. Narendra sat next to Raju, comforting him. He knew that Raju had received a terrible shock. Narendra's mother made some coffee and gave it to the shivering boy.

Then Narendra and his father accompanied Raju and left him safely at his house. The next day, in school, Raju was very quiet. His classmates found that he had nothing harsh to say to them. His teacher's were surprised when he showed his homework without saying a word. Raju had changed. Everyone was pleasantly surprised. And, of course, Raju had become Narendra's best friend.

Moral: Kindness pays



Name: Manthan. M. Patel

School: Sacred Heart Boy's High School Santacruz (W).

STD: VIII A

A Merchant and a King's Servant

Once upon a time, in a city called Vardhamana-

Three men were standing together and were talking about a merchant. "He is wise and good too!" exclaimed one of them. "Once again Dantila has proved himself to be an excellent administrator" said another man.

While the people were praising him, Dantila was busy talking with his wife about their daughter's wedding. "I have invited the king, the queen, and the entire court for the wedding." Says Dantila. "We'd better start the preparations." Replied his wife, "There are hardly a few days left."

On the wedding day Dantila welcomes the king, "Welcome, o king. I am highly honoured by your presence to day."

Goramba the king's sweeper came to the wedding, too, but uninvited. Dantila was furious "Get out, Goramba!" Dantila shouted angrily. "How dare you come here?"

Insulted Goramba walked out. "I will get even with him somehow" he said in his mind.

The whole night he thought about it. At last just before sunrise, "I have got it!" he said to himself.

That morning when Goramba went to sweep the king's chamber, "Shame on Dantila" he says softly. So that king could hear it. "How dare he embrace the queen?"

The king gets up shouting "Goramba what were you saying? Tell me at once, is it true?" "Master!" replies Goramba "Please! I was gambling all night. Now I am half asleep and I don't know what I am saying."

The king sat in his chamber in a sad mood and thought "Goramba moves freely in the palace. Maybe he really saw it happen."

The king sent for his chief guard and said, "Henceforth Dantila shall not enter the palace gates" "Yes, your majesty." replies the chief.

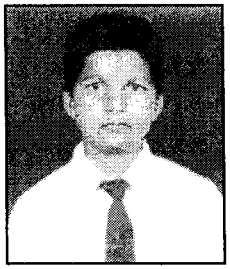
The next day Dantila wanted to meet the king. But the guards did not allow him and said, "You may not enter. This is king's order." Dantila tried to say something but at that time he saw the king's sweeper Goramba passing by with a smile on his face. Dantila said in his mind "Now I know who caused the trouble! A king's servant high or low, must indeed be respected." Dantila came to know that Goramba was taking revenge on him because he insulted him on his daughter's wedding day. So he decided to apologize to him.

That very evening Dantila invited Goramba to his house and while he was leaving he said, "My friend, please accept this gift and forgive me for my behavior on that day." "Thank you sir, Thank You." Said Goramba and accepted the gift and he said something more, "I forgive you and you will see again how clever I can be.

The next morning Goramba was sweeping the king's room as usual. "Ho! Ho! Ha! Ha!" he said the same way he did before, "Our king eats cucumbers in the lavatory" The king wakes and shouts, "That's a lie, Goramba. I could hang you for it." Goramba begs and says "p...p...please! M-ma-master! I was gambling all night now. I am half asleep. I don't know what I am saying. Please forgive me!" the king sat and thought for a while "He has made a mistake about me, so he could be wrong about Dantila too. I must make up with the able Dantila."

The king called Dantila and offered a gift and said, "Dantila, my dear friend, accept this gift as a token of my regards for you. You are reappointed to your former position and may enter the place whenever you want!" "Thank you your majesty" said Dantila

Moral: Every dog has its day.



Name: Nikhilesh Singh

School: Sacred Heart Boy's High School Santacruz (W).

Tit for Tat

Once upon a time, there was a villager by the name Krishna. He lived in Ghotampur village. He was a very honest and soft-spoken person.

One day some of his friends who lived in the city met him in the town-market. They were very happy on meeting each other after a long time. They sat together and spoke for a very long time about their childhood pranks, the teachers whom they had made fun of, and lots of other things. After that one of the friends, Sohan invited Krishna to come and visit them in the city.

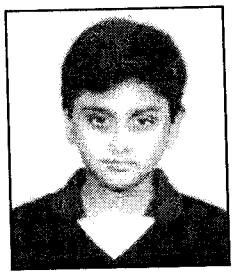
After some months Krishna had to go to the city for some work. He went to the city and met Sohan. Sohan was a very shrewd and cunning person at the same time he was also miser. He thought of making fool of Krishna. He asked Krishna to finish his work and come and meet him in the evening to have dinner. He also told him that in the meanwhile he would also inform Nitin, Mahesh and Anurag to come and have dinner together. Krishna finished his work and in his pre-occupation, he did not have any time to have lunch. So he just had something to munch. In the evening Krishna went to Sohan's place, and met other friends also. They shook hands and sat down to chat outside the house in the compound. Sohan did not offer him anything either to eat or drink. Krishna was getting hungry and also irritated. He got up and told them that he would leave for the village before it gets dark. Sohan asked him to sit down and turning to Nitin told him to go inside the house and see whether the servant had finished cooking or not. Nitin went inside the house and in the kitchen lighted the gas-stove. He put the frying pan on the stove and sprinkled some water on the hot frying pan. There that was a sound of something being cooked. Then he came out and informed them that the servant was still cooking. Krishna also heard the sound in the kitchen and felt something was being cooked so he sat down. Another hour passed by and again Krishna got up to go, but Sohan told him to sit down and have patience. This time he told Anurag to go inside the house and ask the servant whether the food has been

cooked or not. Anurag also did the same thing that Nitin had done. It was midnight and there was no way Krishna could go to the village. This time the fourth friend Mahesh went inside and repeated the same activity as performed by Nitin and Anurag. Little did Krishna realize that they had already eaten their food and were making fool of him. He had to sleep empty stomach the whole night. Next day he got up early and went to his village.

After few months Sohan received a letter sent by Krishna inviting Sohan and his friends to a small get-together that he was celebrating. He also asked them to come in the evening and stay over after dinner. Sohan along with Nitin, Anurag and Mahesh went to Ghotampur village. It was very chilly winter evening so they had carried their sweaters and jackets along. Krishna was very delighted to see them. He embraced all of them and took them inside his house, introduced them to his wife. They sat down to chat. They had also seen Krishna's wife cutting lots of vegetables and other food items. When it got dark Krishna told them that he had a noble idea to celebrate the occasion. There was a railway station near the village. Krishna took them there along with some logs of woods. There was a big water tank of the railways, high above the ground. He told all his friends to climb one by one up on the water tank. He also climbed along after everyone had done so. On top of the water tank they sat and started talking about a lot of things. They had a small fire to keep themselves warm from the chilly winter wind. Then Krishna got up and told them that he was going to get the food. On his way down, quietly he removed the nuts of the ladder, which he had loosened up earlier in the day. He came down and pulled the ladder apart from the water tank. He went home had his dinner with his wife and went to sleep. Sohan and his friends lost their patience, and asked Mahesh to go down and enquire about the food. Mahesh was shocked to find the ladder missing

They had to spend the whole night on the water tank in that chill. This was tit for tat by the villager.

Moral: Do not try to cheat others, as it may boomerang on you



Name: Marc Savio Bulley

School : Sacred heart Boys School

Dishonesty never pays

Many, many years ago, somewhere in England there lived a man whose name was Francis James Bernard. He was a middle-aged bachelor and worked as a carpenter. He had a helper named David Joe.

When Francis was a little boy he was never given everything he wanted. Therefore he became independent and learned to do everything for himself. Now Francis had a twin brother whose name was Ferdinand. Their father Jeffery was a farmer and had lots of money. Jeffery liked Francis better than Ferdinand, as Francis did whatever his father told him, not like Ferdinand who was always lazing around and wasting money.

Day after day, week after week, year after year, and thus twenty years passed. There was no change in their behaviour even after twenty years Francis was still listening to whatever his father told him and Ferdinand was still going out for parties and movies and spending all his money.

One day their father fell ill and was going to die. In his last moments he sent for his son Francis. In the meanwhile Ferdinand heard his father asking for Francis and came into his room saying that he was Francis. His father not knowing that he was Ferdinand, called him closer, and told him that he had left all his money, and all that he owned to him. At this point Francis came into his father's room, and heard his father tell his brother to banish him, *(thinking Francis was Ferdinand)* from his father's house and never let him return again. Francis was just about to explain to his father, what had happened but at that moment his father died. After their father's funeral was over, Francis picked up his bags, went to his brother and said that he did a very wrong thing and god would punish him for telling lies. Then he left the house to go on with his own life.

The years rolled by. Ferdinand was still wasting away his father's money. Francis became a carpenter. Ferdinand lost all his

money, shivered with fear. He started looking for Francis to ask him for help in his time of need. He finally found him, sitting in his shop with his assistant. He went to him and asked him if he could borrow some money or at least work. His assistant David Joe was willing to give him some money, but Francis stopped him and told David Joe what had happened between him and Ferdinand. Ferdinand then left the place very disappointed.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy

What letter is most useful to a deaf woman ?

And. : The letter :"A" because it makes her hear

What letter will set one of the heavenly bodies in motion ?

Ans. : "T" because it will make a STAR START

Which are the poorest letters ?

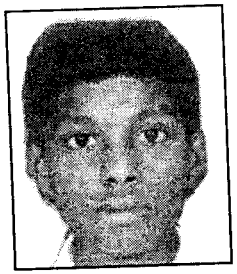
Ans. : The "O's" (Owes)

What letter travels the greatest distance ?

Ans. : "D" Because it goes to the end of the world.

What can speak every language in the world ?

Ans. : An echo



Name : Master Pradesh Joseph

School : Sacred Heart Boys School
Santacruz West

Roscue and his friend Simon

In a city of Perth there was an Englishman named John Roscue. He belonged to a very noble family. He was a businessman. He was always regular in his work and he was knowledgeable and popular person. He did many good things to everyone. He was a kind and humorous person. His mother Antileena Roscue was also very generous and always prayed for John. She was a good tailor and also she was good in her household work. His father Arbuckle Roscue was a short-tempered person but was a good and kind man.

One day, John Roscue met a poor man who was covered with dust and sores on his body. He pleaded to John Roscue, to help him, since, he was lying on the road and none of them would look at him nor go in his way. Because of the poorer man's pleading, Roscue felt pity on him and took him to his home. The beggar was so delighted on his way and was thanking god for what he had done. He thought that God has heard his cry. The poor man's name was Simon. Simon had no mother or father or family. He was alone and was very happy to get a chance to stay in such a big home. Roscue was also happy when he met him. His father Arbuckle Roscue when first looked at Simon, was in anger and when he heard Simon's whole story he also felt sorry and felt pity on him.

And Simon stayed for many years with the Roscues. Simon didn't know to read and write and he was praying to God that someone should teach him. Roscue had a vision that he should teach Simon.

He went to Simon and said, "Simon, O my friend. God has showed me a vision yesterday when I was sleeping athat I should teach you. Roscue took great pains to see that Simon become a learned man.

Roscue gave Simon the kingdom of love. He loved Simon very much and god also loved Roscue, his family plus Simon. God's grace fell on Roscue and Simon and they both lived together as if they are real brothers and they spent their life happily.

Moral: Do well to others as god did unto you.

What has a bed, but does not sleep,
and a mouth that does not eat ?

Ans. A River.

What coat do you put on only when it is wet ?

Ans. : A coat of paint. OR
A coat of Nail Polish

Why did the Moron stand at the crosroads
with a knife in one hand and a gun in the other ?

Ans. Because he didn;t know whether to cut across or shoot along the pavement.

What did the slipper say to the shoe ?

Ans. You have a great sole

A line upon a line, a circle complete,
two semi-circles with a line to meet,
A little triangel with 2 little legs,
Two Semi-circles and a Circle complete.
This is a seven letter word.
Some people eat it - What is it ?

TOBACCO

Name : Noel Saldanha

School : Sacred Heart Boys School

Raju, the village boy

Once, in a small village in Maharashtra there lived a boy whose name was Raju. His parents had expired when he was very young. They left him no fortune as they were poor. He also had a small sister. It was very difficult for him to provide food for both of them. But he got some support from the villagers, who gave him a small hut and a job in a diamond mine. Raju was very happy and thankful to them. Soon he started working hard and earned enough money to support their needs. He used to work for twelve hours in the day and in the night he slept comfortably.

Life continued like that and now and Raju was a young man. His small sister had just turned fifteen. But soon, Raju was tensed as the expenditure now increased. So he started working for fifteen hours. Since the salary of the worker depended on the hours he worked, Raju got a better salary. But one day, his sister met with an accident and was hospitalized. Now Raju was getting heavy bills daily. But still he worked as hard as he could instead of borrowing money.

One day while Raju was returning home from work, he saw something sparkling and shining. He thought that it was a piece of glass or mirror. But when he went closer, he found that it was a big diamond. He was amused and was thinking what would be the cost of it. "Two lakhs, no, must be costlier, four lakhs, no, for this diamond I might get a fortune." But then his spirit spoke to him "What is the use of taking the diamond. You will have a luxurious and rich life, but in the eyes of God you will be a beggar." Raju realized his folly and immediately went to the boss, who was the owner of the mine. He was surprised on seeing such a man who gives more value to his work and honesty than his riches. He rewarded Raju and paid all the expenses of the hospital and also gave him a raise in his salary. Today, Raju is sixty years old and has three children who all work in diamond mine. He is now relaxed and still remembers that day which brought a turn in his life.

Moral: Honesty is the best policy

Name: Deepak Ramandasani

School: Sacred Heart Boy's High School. Santacruz (W).

A Friend in need is a Friend indeed

Once there were two friends. One day they decided to go to a forest. So the two friends were passing through the forest. Suddenly, a bear was seen approaching them. The stronger friend was frightened and he scrambled up a tree. The other friend lay down as if dead. The bear sniffled at the other friend, all over him, and then went away taking him to be dead. Then the selfish friend came down from the tree when the bear went away and asked the other friend what the bear said in his ears. The other friend got up angrily and told him that the bear told him not to trust selfish and insincere companions. The friends came out of the forest and after a while they decided not to betray each other. When any difficulties came in their way, they helped each other.

Moral: We should always be friend to someone else's needs and that is a friend indeed

Voice on the phone :
"I'm sorry Sir but Johnny will be absent today because he has fever

The Head Master
"May I know who is talking please ?"

The Voice "It's my father Sir"

Name: Ami B. Shukla

School : Shree Mumbadevi Vidya mandir

Mumbai-400054.

DOB: 8th July 1988

The farmer and the snake

One cold winter morning a farmer was walking down the road. He hadn't gone far when he noticed a snake lying on the road. He stopped and looked at the snake. It was so cold that it couldn't move. The farmer was a kind-hearted man, and he felt sorry for the snake. So he picked it up. It was so frozen that it became stiff and hard as a log. The farmer put the snake inside his coat where it could get warm. The farmer felt good about his kind act, and after a while he began to feel something moving around, inside his coat. He peeped in "Hello there, Mr. Snake. Are you getting warmed up?"

Sometime later the snake wriggled harder. The farmer said to him, "You seem to be almost thawed out now."

"Almost", the snake said, flicking his forked tongue.

"Well, Mr. Snake, I sure am happy. You would have frozen to death if I hadn't picked you up. Now I want you to promise me that you won't bite me when you get all thawed out. Remember, I did you a big favour."

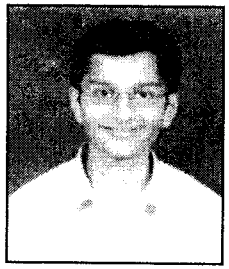
The snake nodded, "I appreciate it. And you don't have to worry. I won't bite you."

"That's good"

Just as the farmer got close to town, the snake started moving around, and the farmer knew that he was all thawed out.

The farmer opened up his coat, and the snake crawled out and bit the farmer on the neck. "Mr. Snake!" the farmer cried, "you promised that you wouldn't bite me." The snake looked at the farmer and said, "That's what I promised, Mr. farmer, but I am a snake. You knew that when you picked me up. And you knew that snakes bite. It's a part of their nature."

Moral: If it's in the nature of a thing to hurt you, it will do just that, no matter how kind you are to it.



Name: Harsh Bafna

School: I.E.S Manik Vidyamandir
Opp. Lilavati Hospital
Bandra Reclamation
Bandra (W), Mumbai-400050

Tel No (School): 6454553

The edge of the mountain ledge -A true life incident

We undertook a vacation in the Diwali holiday's of1999. Our family, my uncle's family, and, my daddy's friend's family got together for a vacation to Mahableswar.

A visit to one of these points changed my life and my relationship with my father, forever. The father-son bond is a relationship of unspoken love. My relationship with my father was a bit strained because I had this misconception that my father hated me.

While walking back from the sunset point. I and my father were playing 'catch' the ball. My father threw the ball right above me and halfway through the thick undergrowth which led to a deep valley. While my father was searching the ball I saw and to my horror my sister was merrily skipping along the edge of the cliff right in the jaws of death. (Drop)

I ran to her brought her to safety and my father thought that I was sad at losing the ball. So to please me he went to get the ball and undertook such a risk for me.

I was a good two hundred meters away from where my dad was.

I saw that my father had precariously gone down to get the ball and had slipped but fortunately caught a tree. I helped him come up.

I hugged my father tearfully and told him what a fool I was to think of such a stupid thing. I loved himand realised that he too loved me.

Moral: Misunderstandings and misconceptions can worsen and mar things. We must get them cleared before its too late

Name: Gauri Nabar

School : IES Manik Vidya Mandir

DOB: 27th August 1989

Kalpataru

The story I am going to tell you today is so old that not even the crispiest holy pages have any trace of it.

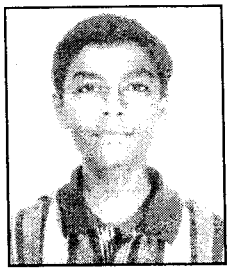
When god first created earth, his heart filled with joviality and gratification. By seeing this newborn baby, there was a tear of happiness in his eye, and as that tear touched earth, the Earth took its first rotation. All the gods were stunned by this marvelous creation. However, god decided to send someone to inspect this beautiful planet. He decided to send his wise son, Anshuman. God sent his servants and ministers along with Anshuman.

This time Earth was a secluded, remote place, with wide deserted land, which was barren everywhere accompanied by high, blue mountain fancy caps of the grayish snow. The gentle wind caused rhythmic ripples on the playful water. Life hadn't established itself yet. Everyone was bewitched, except Anshuman.

All the royal men took a walk through the Earth. On returning to heaven, god questioned them about his creation. Everyone saluted him except Anushuman. After a long silence Anshuman spoke "Father your creation is incredible but incomplete, like the moon without the stars, the waves without you! Earth is incredible, but it lacks one colour. The vast planes are tearing apart without anyone to hold them together. Further, when the inhabitants of this place feel hungry what shall they do. When hunger approached the water will just flow, the wind will just whistle and the mountains will just tear. And what about when they are tired of the sun's heat and are thirsty for comfort?" god understood immediately. He blessed the soil with the boon of trees. The first tree he planted was a "Kalpatru."

So friends don't you see how wrong life is without trees?

Moral: If you want to smile, plant trees every mile!



Name: Hrishikesh Ajit Tiwari

School : IES Manik Vidya Mandir
Bandra Reclamation

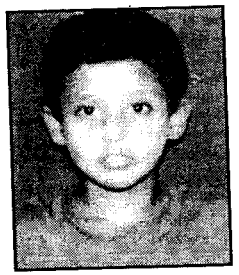
Raju's Trip Back in Time

"In the beginning there was nothing, and then God said, let there be light and there was light!" "Then came the light bill" interrupted mother, while Raju was reading excerpts from the Bible. Raju had forgotten to switch off the lights in the drawing room. But Raju was not thinking about the electricity bill at that time.

He was wondering about the creation of life, the extinction of the dinosaurs and the evolution of man. He was wondering if he could see these things happen. Just then he heard a crash outside his window. There he saw acrater a crater about 9 inches in diameter. It was a black disc like object having markings for dates and years. Raju knew it was a time machine! Raju held it in his hand pressed a button and lo! He was back in time!

He looked at the black disc in his hand, which read "Minus sixty five million years"! Long before man proved.that the earth was a sphere and just before the extinction of the dinosaurs! He looked in amazement as a towering brontosaurus chewed up a whole tree in one go! Just then a huge meteor crashed into earth's surface. It shook the earth violently. In an attempt to escape the meteor the dinosaurs fell off the edges of the earth, the earth was flat then, wasn't it?). just then an apple fell on Raju's head and Raju fell off his bed. Raju laughed at the dream as he saw the pages of his open history textbook flutter.

Moral: It is always good to be a bit imaginative.



Name: Shreyas Dhond

School: I.E.S Manik Vidyamandir
Opp. Lilavati Hospital,
Bandra Reclamation, Bandra (W

Acres of Diamonds

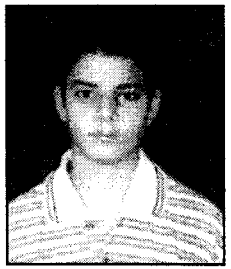
There was a farmer in Africa whose name was Mohammad. He was a hard worker and was content with whatever he was having. He was a happy man.

One day a wise man came to him and told him about the glory of diamonds and the power that goes along with them. The wise man said, "If you had a diamond the size of you thumb, you could have your own city." And then he went away. That night the farmer could not sleep. He was unhappy.

The next morning he made arrangements to sell off his farm and went in search of diamonds. He looked all over Africa and Europe but could not find any. When he got to Spain, he was emotionally, physically and financially broke. He got so disheartened that he threw himself into the Barcelona River and committed suicide.

Back home, the person who had bought his farm was watering the plants. The rays of the morning sun hit a stone and made it sparkle like a rainbow. He picked up the stone and put it in the living room. That afternoon the wise man came and saw the stone. He asked "Is Mohammad back?" "Because that is a diamond. I recognize one when I see one." The owner showed where he got it. "There are many more." They went and picked some samples and sent them for analysis. Sure enough, the stones were diamonds. They found that the farm was indeed covered with acres and acres of diamonds.

Moral: Opportunity is always under our feet. All we need to do is recognize it.



Name: Ajay Rajan Bhise

School: I.E.S Manik Vidyamandir

STD: IX

The Fearless Falcon

No one knew about Bill Carter (TV Reporter of the KMC News) to be the mighty fearless Falcon. The fearless Falcon was a terrific super hero who used to save the people of Mumbai. With his special powers the fearless Falcon would fly in the sky like the wind and had super laser breams. His enemies were Dr. Haddock, Merman, Beast, The Sorcerer and the Chameleon. His only weakness was plastic. When plastic would come in front of his eyes, he would feel weak and his powers would not work. That's enough intros for now. The Republic is going to unleash their evil plan.....

It was a quiet and peaceful day at the city jail as Merman, Chameleon, Beast and the Sorcerer were safely behind bars. Suddenly there was a blast heard from the outside of the jail. There were nearly 20 tankers approaching Boom! Boom! The tankers were attacking. They broke the jail and released the four diabolic evil enemies.

The news that the four worshippers of evil had escaped spread everywhere. Even the KMC news station was not spared. Bill learned about the escape and thought that something was fishy.

Meanwhile the four of them were blindfolded and were in the dark room. They heard footsteps and after sometime their blindfolds were removed. There was Dr.Haddock sitting in front of them. He explained about their escape from the prison and explained his plan to the troublesome foursome and formed the most evil group in the whole galaxy-the republic.

The fearless Falcon received a note from the republic saying, "We have kidnapped your best friend, Bill's secretary. If you don't show up at midnight at the Mumbai-Pune express way we will make a thousand pieces of her and feed them to the crocodiles."

The fearless Falcon knew that Dr. Haddock was involved in this somehow and if his guess was right he was going to fall in the clutches of Dr. Haddock. He had no choice, so he went to the

Mumbai-Pune expressway at midnight to find out.

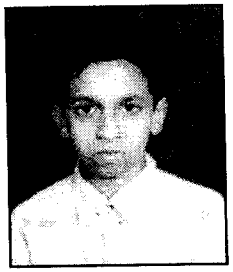
After taking a few steps, he fell into the hall. In the hall were Dr.Haddock, the Chameleon, the Beast and Merman. In the center was Miss Pink; she was handing over boiling acid. The fearless Falcon was heading towards the republic, when he realized that he was in a room made of ***PLASTIC.*** His powers began to weaken and he could not stand. Then from nowhere came his trusted assistant avenger the Falcon. He tore the plastic room into pieces with his sharp claws. The republic tried to stop him but in vain. At last they caught avenger but it was too late. The fearless Falcon had revived his powers and started to bash the republic.

First was the turn of the Beast. He was a muscular animal but was no match against our superhero. Next was the Merman. He called his animal friends to protect him but he too ran away by taking the shape of a rat but he couldn't escape avenger. The Sorcerer used all his powers to stop the fearless Falcon but he didn't succeed. At last it all came up to Dr. Haddock. He tried to run away but our Hero held him tightly. He pleaded to let him go. The fearless Falcon let him go all right; he let him go to prison. Then as usual he took Miss Pink and returned to Mumbai.

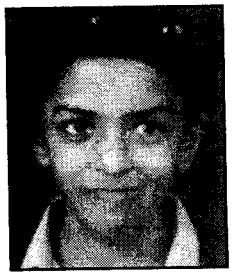
The people in Mumbai can once again live in peace, thanks to the fearless Falcon.

Moral: Truth Always Triumphs

Magician :
Young man, will you please come up on the stage?
(When he is on the stage)
"Young man you have never seen me before, have you?".
Young Man : "No Dad, never."



Name: Mihir D. Ambardekar
School: Manik Vidyamandir
STD: VII



Name: Natasha .A. Agarwal
STD: VII A

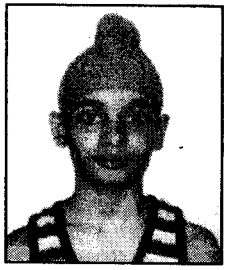
The King Cobra and the Ants

There lived a King Cobra in a forest. He fed on rats, bird's eggs, frogs, lizard, rats and other creatures. Everyday he ate these creatures and lazed away the whole day. In course of time he grew bigger in size, and his pride grew bigger still.

One day the Cobra thought, "I am the mightiest animal in the forest. I am the king of the forests. Now I must live in a big house which suits my size and status."

So he selected a big tree for his new house. There was an anthill near the tree. The king Cobra said, "I don't want this nuisance here." So he went to the ants and said, "I am the king of the forest. I order you to remove this rubbish from here and go away immediately. The ants trembled in Cobra's presence. They didn't pay any attention to his threat. This enraged him and he lashed at the anthill with his tail. The next moment thousands of ants climbed over his body and stung him hard. Thousands of thorny pricks caused unbearable pain to the mighty cobra. He wriggled and rolled in pain to keep the ants away. He struggled hard for some time and at last died a painful death.

Moral: Pride goes before a fall.



Name: Angad Jyot Singh Bhasin
School : Guru Harkrishan High School
STD: VIII A

The helpful friend

Once upon a time there were two boys named Ram and Sham who studied in the same school. Ram's father was rich where as Sham came from a middle class family. Sham was good in studies and always topped the class.

Due to a serious accident Sham's father was hospitalized as a result of which Sham could not attend school regularly and missed his classes. Due to financial problems he could not even pay his school fees. Ram understood Sham's plight and requested his father for some extra money to pay Sham's fees without him knowing it. He also sacrificed his playtime to copy school notes for Sham which helped Sham to pass through his exams in spite of his difficulties.

He was grateful to Ram for his help without which he would not pass his exams.

Moral: A friend in need is a friend indeed

Master : "What's your name boy ?
Boy : "Henry"
Master : Say Sir.
Boy : OK then, Sir Henry.

Name: Pradnya H. Pisal

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: VIII A

The Two Rings

A rich old man died leaving two sons. For some time the two continued living together in the traditional Indian way, in a single joint household, a joint family. Then they quarreled and decided to separate, dividing all the property between them. Everything was divided fifty-fifty, and thus they settled their affairs. But after the settlement had been made, a small packet was discovered which their father had carefully hid. They opened the packet and found two rings inside, one set with a valuable diamond, and the other an ordinary silver ring worth only a few rupees.

Seeing the diamond, the elder brother developed greed in his mind, and he started explaining to the younger one "To me it appears that this ring is not earning of our father, but rather an heirloom from his forefathers. That is why he kept it separate from his other possessions. And since it has been kept for generations in our family, it should remain for future generations. Therefore I, being older, shall keep it. You had better take the silver ring."

The younger brother smiled and said, "All right, be happy with the diamond ring, I'll be happy with the silver one." Both of them placed their rings on their fingers and went their ways.

The younger brother thought to himself, "It is easily understandable that my father kept the diamond ring; it is so valuable. But why did he keep this ordinary silver ring?" he examined the ring closely and found words engraved on it "This will also change." "Oh, this is the mantra of my father. This will also change!" He replaced the ring on his finger.

Both brothers faced all the ups and downs of life. When spring came, the elder brother was highly elated, losing the balance of his mind. When winter came he fell into deep depression, again losing his mental balance. He became tense developing hypertension. Unable to sleep at night, he started using sleeping pills, tranquilizers, stronger drugs. Finally, he reached the stage where

he required electric shock treatments. This was the brother with the diamond ring.

As for the younger brother with the silver ring, when spring came, he enjoyed it; he didn't try to run away from it. He enjoyed it, but looked at his ring and remembered, "This will also change." And when it changed, he could smile and say, "Well, I knew it was going to change. It has changed, so what!"

When winter came, again he looked at his ring and remembered, "This will also change." He didn't start crying, knowing that this would also change. And yes, it also changed, it passed away. Of all the ups and downs, all the vicissitudes of life, he knew that nothing was eternal, that everything comes just to pass away. He did not lose his balance of mind and he lived a peaceful, happy life.

This was the brother with the silver ring.

Moral: He that is greedy of gain troubles his own self.

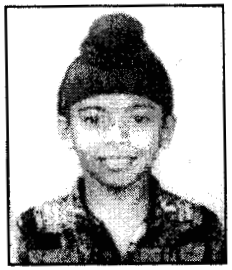
Mother : Sonu, do you know that Lord Krishna lifted a huge mountain on his little finger ?

Sonu : I don't believe it.

Mother : Why not ?

Sonu : Because it is not in the Guiness Book of World Records

John teaches his parrot to talk
I can walk - I can walk
I can talk - I can talk
I can fly - That's a lie!



Name: Virenderjeet Singh

School: Guru Harkrishan High School

STD: VII B

Role No.: 14

The Foolish Tortoise

Once upon a time there was a tortoise and two geese. They went to a lake. They were good friends.

One year there was not enough rain and the lake became dry. So the three friends went in search of another lake. It was easy for the geese to fly but it was difficult for the tortoise to go with them. But he got a bright idea. He said, "I will place a stick in my mouth and you hold the end of the stick in your beak. One of you will be on one end of the stick and the other will be on the other end." So the geese held the stick in their beaks. The tortoise held the middle of stick in his mouth.

They began their journey. They were now flying over a town. Men, women and children came out of their houses and saw the strange sight. They started shouting and clapping. The foolish tortoise opened his mouth. He wanted to ask his friends "Why are the people shouting like that?" but as soon as he opened his mouth, he lost the hold of the stick. Down he fell and died on the spot.

Moral: Always think before you leap.

Name: Nirmit Desai

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: VII B

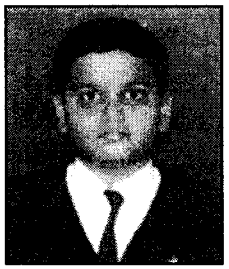
Late Lateef

Once there was a boy called Lateef, he was usually referred to as late Lateef. This was because Lateef always used to be late in everything: eating his food, going to school, playing with friends etc. One day his family members sat down to eat their dinner. He was late for dinner as usual. They were already half way through when he joined them. His father said to Lateef, "Lateef you are always late for your dinner." Days passed but Lateef did not change his ways. One day Lateef was to go to a Tennis match at 11 a.m. He was busy playing games on the computer. When his mother saw this she told Lateef to hurry up and get ready for the match. But Lateef didn't listen. He replied to his mother that he still had an hour left. Lateef's elder sister Laila was listening to all this exchange. She thought that Lateef needed to be taught a good lesson. Laila took the clock and changed the time. When Lateef's attention fell on the clock, he thought that he was very late. So he shut down the computer and began to get ready for the match. A lot of time elapsed and Lateef's sister continued that trick. No one else in the family was aware of what she had done.

One day Lateef was to go to the ground and play with his friends. Lateef did not care about it because he was busy reading a book. Laila knew about the meeting and so she changed the time. Lateef was amazed to see the time. He quickly took his cricket bat and cap and went to the ground. Laila continued this trick but not for long.

One day, as she was changing the time, Lateef saw her. Lateef came to know that behind this there was Laila's hand. He was furious. When Laila explained to him Lateef was ashamed and asked for her forgiveness. He promised to mend his ways and not cause distress to either his family or friends by his errant ways. His attitude made him lazy, selfish and unprofessional. His sister taught him a valuable lesson. He went to achieve greater things in life as he learnt to understand the value of time and discipline.

Moral: Time and Tide wait for no man.



Name: Mitesh P. Athavia

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: VII A

Destiny cannot be changed

A boy named Hari lived in a village named Vilasgoan. He always listened to his parents. When his time came to start his studies he would cry and cry, but then he would be attentive too. His Guru, Vidhushok was a nice guru. He taught his disciples nice and fine habits. When exams came, all knew that Hari did not perform nicely. Hari felt very bad about this. All tests came, but Hari failed. All his friends started teasing him. All called names at him.

One day a friend of Hari asked him "Hari, one minute, show me your hand" said the friend. Hari showed his hands. The friend kept on seeing his hand. Suddenly his friend said, "Oh! Hari, you don't have education line on your hand. That is why you don't get good marks in your subjects." Hari felt really bad when he heard this. It was evening. It was time to take the class attendance. All boys were present, but one boy was missing. All the boys were looking here and there, then they came to know that Hari was missing.

Guru was worried, he said, "Oh no, where is Hari? What will I tell his parents?" All went to search for Hari, they went here and there, but could not find him. Suddenly one of his friends heard a cry. Then they saw Hari sitting on a big rock crying. His friend took him to Guru. Guru said, "Oh, my son where had you been and what is this? So much blood on your hand." Hari said, "I don't have the line of knowledge in my hand. That is why I was trying to make it." Guru laughed "My son, one day this line is going to go away. I know you want to study but you don't get marks. Don't worry my son, I will teach you and teach you until you become a scholar. I will not rest till I make you a scholar." By hearing this Hari became confident. Then the annual exams came, the result said Hari was first in the class. Guru was very happy. In three days Hari became a scholar. He was renowned in that village by now. All kings called him. Then he became a really big scholar.

Moral: God gives us everything, but we don't make use of it. Or Patience is the best virtue

Name: Poonam Kaur Dhir

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: IX

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

When we depend on others to do our work, we become lazy. When we are idle, we are bound to think of some mischief.

We cannot expect to do well in the examinations only by praying. We have to study, to know our subjects. Otherwise, like Anushka, we too will learn that God helps only those who help themselves.

Anushka was a little girl who studied in class IV. A few days before the examinations her favourite aunt had come to spend sometime with her parents and with her. Anushka loved to go out with her aunt or listen to the stories she told. Even though the examinations were drawing near, Anushka seemed to be in no mood to study. Every morning, instead of studying, she sat in the drawing room with her aunt and parents and listened to their conversation. Her mother was worried and repeatedly told Anushka to study. Anushka tossed her head and said, "I know everything" and continued to waste her time.

The examination started. Anushka began to panic. She tried to sit up late to study, but was so tired she fell asleep. She got up early and went to the Mandir close by. She prayed to God to help her in tests. She even took a picture of God to keep with her when she went for the examination.

In school Anushka got a shock when she saw the question paper. She did not know the answer to a single question. She prayed again and again, but the answers to the questions just did not come to her mind. Even the picture of God in front of her did not seem to help.

Naturally she failed in the examination. It was a shock for her because so far she had been a bright student. She knew that it was her fault. If she had prepared for the tests, she would have done well as usual.

She had been lazy and had wasted her time and so even God did not come to her help.

She knew now that God only helps those who help themselves.

Moral: God helps those who help themselves.

Name: Ankita S. Chaturvedi

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: VIII B

Miserable Anita

A girl named Anita was around 12 years old. She was the only girl of her father named Anil Shah and her mother Amisha Shah. Anita was a very clever girl till her mother taught her studies. She was a girl who mixed with everybody and had a very good and large friends circle. Her mummy was a housewife and Daddy was a service man, a middle class family. They were everything to Anita. She couldn't live without them. Both her parents were educated. They had financial problems but were happy.

Anita had passed her seventh standard and was going in the eight. She unfortunately got a bad group of friends and started giving bad words and disobeyed her parents. At the same time her mother started to go to the office of her father. Her mother was busy in developing the business and had left all the work of the house to Anita'. For some days Anita faithfully fulfilled the responsibility of the house. Anita was no more a simple girl she used to be. She had changed from a good path to a wrong path because her parents ignored her.

After school she once brought her friends home, two girls and two boys, for a dance practice of their annual day. On seeing the boys in the house her parents misunderstood her and said that "The boys who came were your boyfriends. You are taking disadvantage of us not staying at home." When Anita walked out of her house people would say anything rubbish and would not allow her to play with their children. Anita was totally disturbed and frustrated with the situation and could not face it. Next day she told her mother a lie and did not return home. Her parents were in tension searching for her. Anita had decided that she would never go back home and Anita met with an accident near her school and died.

What a miserable life she had due to a small misunderstanding. Her parents then realized their mistake. Children should always be given perfect guidance by their parents and elders.

Moral: Never misunderstand anybody

Name: Vandana Acharya

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: VIII A

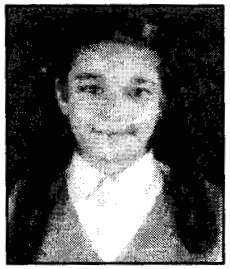
The sage made the child stop from eating curd

Once there was a boy named Ramesh. He loved eating curd and buttermilk. His father kept telling him not to eat curd in excess but he turned a deaf ear towards him and paid no heed to his father's talks.

One day his father decided to make him learn the pros and cons of anything in life but he took up the topic of eating curd. He decided to take him to the very learned sage of the village. The sage made an acquaintance with the child and then told him curds are very nutritious and nourishing and very tasty and you must eat them very often. You can take them in the morning, evening and night and all through out the day. The father was very confused with this kind of reaction from the learned man but as the sage continued with explanation the father was content. The sage told the child, "If you eat curd you will never see old age. There will be no thefts in your house and you will always remember God and keep saying his name." The boy was very happy to hear the sage advocating on his side.

A week passed and the father saw that the child continued to eat curds. The father seeing that the child had not understood the sage's talks sent him back to the sage. When the child met the sage again he asked him what his talk meant. The sage said, "That's very simple you just had to find the clues in what I said. You will never see old age it meant if you eat excessive of curd, it'll harm your body and you will die soon and when I said there'll be no robbery in your house because you will be up all night and the robber will never enter your house. When you will be irritated with your health you will remember God and keep on saying his name. The boy was shocked with this kind of explanation and saw the light soon. He thanked the sage and went home as a new person.

Moral: Teachers will always help you over come your faults you have to just understand them.



Name: Gurbaani Kohli

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: VII B

The Miracle of a Love Song

Like any good mother, when Karen found that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her 3-Year-old son. Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They found out that the new baby was going to be a girl and day after day, night after night Michael spoke to his little sister in Mummy's tummy. He was building a bond of love with his little sister even before he met her. The pregnancy progressed normally for Karen, an active member of the Panther Creek United Methodist Curch in Morristown, Tennessee. In time, the labour pains came. Soon it was every five minutes, every three, every minute. But serious complications arose during delivery and Karen found herself in hours of labour. Would a C-section be required? Finally, after a long struggle, Michaels little sister was born. But she was in a serious condition. With a siren howling in the night the ambulance rushed the infant to the neo-natal intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The days inched by. The little girl got worse. The pediatric specialist regretfully had to tell the parents, "There is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst." Karen and her husband contacted a local cemetery about a burial plot. They had fixed up a special room in their home for the new baby. But now they found themselves having to plan for a funeral. Michael, however, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. "I want to sing to her", he kept saying. It looked as if a funeral would come before the second week was over. Michael kept nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in the ICU. Karen made up her mind, thought she would take Michael whether they like it or not? If he didn't see his sister right then, he may never see her alive. She dressed him in an oversized scrub suit and marched him to the ICU. He looked like walking laundry basket, but the head nurse recognized him as a child and bellowed, "Get that kid out of there now! No children are allowed!" The mother rose up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glared steely eyed right into the head nurse's face, her lips a firm line. "He is

not leaving until he sings to his sister." Karen towed Michael to his sister's bedside. He gazed at the tiny infant losing the battle to live.

After a moment, he began to sing. In a pure hearted voice of a 3-year old Michael sang. "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are gray." Instantly, the baby girl seemed to respond. Her pulse rate began to calm down and become steady. "Keep on singing, Michael", encouraged Karen with tears in her eyes. "You never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away." As Michael sang to his sister, the baby's ragged, strained breathing became as smooth as a kitten's purr." "Keep on singing, sweet heart!"

"The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamed I held you in my hands..." Michael's little sister began to relax as healing rest seemed to sweep over her. "Keep on singing, Michael" Tears had now conquered the face of the bossy head nurse. Karen glowed. "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Please don't take my sunshine away..." The very next day, the little girl was well enough to go home!

Moral: "Never give up on the people you love" or "Love is so incredibly powerful"

A : Do you know that a baby weighed 120kg after drinking the elephants' milk?

B : Goodness, which baby was it ?

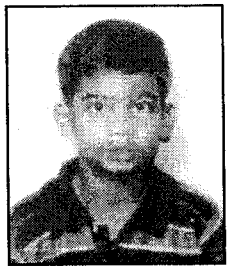
A : The Elephant's baby.

Teacher : Ramu tell me whether America is far or the Moon ?

Rame : America Sir

Teacher : Why ?

Ramu : Because from here we can see the Moon but we can not see America.



Name: Rohit S. Manoharan

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: VII A

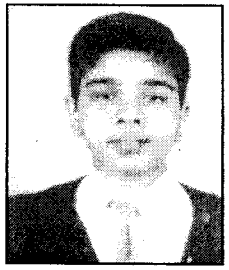
The Clever Disciple

Once there was a Guru named Sant Krishnadev. He was given respect by many great people. He had two disciples, Sant Ramdev and Sant Sahdev. Ramdev was a very lazy person. Krishnadev didn't know about this. Everyday Sahdev used to get up early and get some water for his Guru's bath from the nearby well. He used to keep the pot on the fire to boil the water. Then when the water was boiling, he used to go and call the Guru. Till that time Ramdev used to sleep. When the water used to boil, it used to give out vaoour. Looking at the vapour Ramdev use to get up and take the pot and stand outside waiting for the Guru. When the Guru came for bath, he saw Ramdev instead of Sahdev. By this Ramdev took all the credits.

Once to teach Ramdev a lesson Sahdev brought the water and before boiling the water, he went and called the Guru. And when the water boiled vapour started coming out. Ramdev came running inside to take the pot outside and to his surprise he saw the Guru and Sahdev already there. The Guru was very angry with him.

The Guru told him to leave but Sahdev stopped the Guru from doing this. He told him that Ramdev had learnt a lesson. Thus Ramdev and Sahdev both became learned and became great saints.

Moral: Hardworking is always rewarded.



Name: Chirag R. Shah

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: IX A

A True Friend

Some years ago, there lived a multi millionaire man. His name was Akram. He lived in UAE with his son. His name was Hamed. He was seven years old. Akram loved his son very much. Akram was so rich because he owned five coalmines, and all of them in different Continents. The first mine was in Africa, the second mine was in North America, the third in South America, the fourth in Asia and the last in Australia. He used to get more profit from the coalmines in Africa and the mine in which he used to suffer loss was in North America.

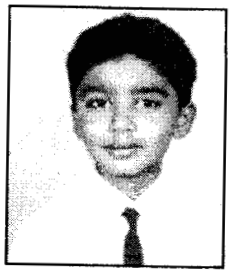
He was the richest man in his time, but there was another man close behind him in wealth. His name was Rafique. Akram had a weakness in him. He always used to do everything quickly without thinking that is it wrong or right. Rafique came to know about this. Rafique said to himself, "I will remember this and take advantage of it at the right time.", and went away.

One day, when the extraction work in Akram's coal, mine was in process in Africa, he found that in place of coal diamonds were extracted. Akram got very happy. Rafique heard this news and said to himself, "This is the right time to take advantage of his weakness" and called upon his lawyer. Rafique ordered him to prepare an agreement, which said that Akram is selling his African coalmine for $ 20,000. Rafique phoned Akram and requested him to sell the North American coalmine and Akram agreed to it. He asked Rafique to send the agreement papers as quick as possible. Rafique asked for the North American mine and in the agreement mentioned about the African mine because he knew that Akram was going to blindly sign the papers and he would get that mine easily. Rafique sent the worker to Akram with the agreements. When the papers reached Akram, his friend Khan was present in the room. As soon as Akram got the papers he started signing them, as Rafique expected. But Khan asked him to read those papers at least once. So Akram said, "I will take any amount of money for that useless mine, and what ever work we do we

should do it fast and quickly as we live in the jet age." And he signed the papers and gave them to Khan requesting him to give it to the man who brought it.

Few days later he received a letter from Rafique saying, "Thank you for selling the coal mine in Africa or may I say the diamond mine in Africa." He started crying after reading the letter. Moments letter Khan entered that room and saw Akram crying. Khan asked Akram, "Why are you crying?" Akram showing the letter written by Rafigue said, "I have been cheated." As Khan read that letter he started laughing loudly. Akram said, "What a friend you are, you are laughing when your friend is in a big trouble. Khan *(Still laughing)* replied, "This is what happens when you do every thing so quickly and without thinking. In a hurry you did not even recognize my handwriting. Yes, my handwriting. When you asked me to give the papers to the worker, I read them and found out that Rafigue was cheating you. So I didn't give the papers to the worker. I wrote this letter to teach you a lesson, to make you learn from your mistake. Doing everything fast is not good. You might have heard the story of the rabbit and tortoise. Even though the rabbit that was very fast lost the race and the tortoise that was very slow won the race, by working slowly but steadily. Living in the jet-age does not mean you should do everything quickly and fast, it means thinking and making right decisions quickly and fast." Akram *(with a smile on his face)* said, "Thank you my friend, you have taught me the most important lesson in my life. I promise I will never do anything in a hurry and without thinking."

Moral: Slow and steady wins the race.



Name: Dharam Maniar

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: VII B

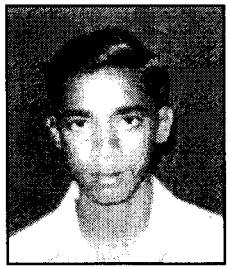
The Adventures of the Shahs

Once upon a time there was a family in the United States of America – the Shahs. One day in the holidays, all the members of the family were at home. They all decided to go for boating. They all went by their car. They reached at the boating point.

When they reached there they hired 2 boats and started boating. They went further and further till there was a sharp right turn. They could not see what was in the right. They took the turn and they saw that a big huge tree had fallen in their way. And they could not turn the boat as the boat was out of control. Their boat bumped into the tree and tilted. Everybody helped each other and climbed on the tree. Then the second boat came. The people who were on the first boat helped the people on the second boat.

Thank God that everybody was saved and none were injured.

Moral: "God helps those who help themselves"



Name: Rupesh P. Ingale

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: IX A

Two Frogs

Once upon a time in a big lake lived two frogs. One year summer was very hot; all water from the lake had vaporized. There was not a single drop in the lake. Then they both started looking for a new lake for them to live. While going they found a lake. The lake was full of water.

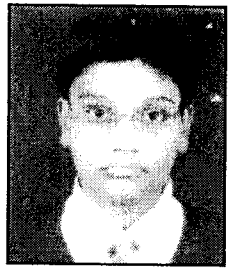
The first frog said, "Friend here is lot of water. Let's live here."

Then the other frog said, "Lake is full of water, if we jump in the lake and the water of the lake evaporated then how will we come out? Let's see whether it is a safe place for us before jumping."

At that moment they saw a crocodile eating a big frog.

Moral: It is better to think before doing anything Or Look before you leap

Betty brought a bit of butter, but the bit of butter was bitter, so she bought a bit of better butter to make the bitter butter better.



Name: Siddhant Sinha

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: IX

A True Story

On the island of Surat once came a ship full of foreigners. The leader of these foreigners sent a mmessage to the king asking permission to land. The king was wary of foreigners, lest they are again forced into slavery, but being of a cultured race and mindful of his duties as a host; the king personally went to the shores to meet the leader. The king greeted the leader and asked his reasons to land on his shores. The leader replied that they were a bunch of people driven from their own country and looking for a place to call home. The king knew that there was plenty of space for accommodating these new people, but he was worried about the influence the foreigners would cast on his people. The king could not refuse point blank his permission to land as that went against the protocol, but he could definitely give them a hint as to his reluctance about giving them permission. The king presented a glass filled to the brim with milk to the leader. The leader too was a noble man, he was intelligent enough to understand that the king meant to say that just like the glass of milk is full to the brim so is my island. The leader added a spoonful of sugar into the milk and stirred it, the sugar melted into the milk and looked just the same as before only it tasted sweeter. The king understood that the leader meant to say that we will melt into your society like sugar, we do not want to change it nor disrupt it, and we can in fact make it sweeter. The king liked this reply and allowed them to land.

This in fact is the story about the first ship of Zoroastrians, popularly known as Parsees, when they landed on the shores of Surat, Gujarat. To this day they have lived peacefully and melted into our society like sugar into milk.

Moral: Respect your fellowmen and to live and let live peacefully.

Name: Rahul Manoharan

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: IX B

The boy who sold wisdom

Chatur was a clever boy. One day he thought to make use of his wisdom. So he set up an unusual business of selling wisdom, in a busy market place. Unfortunately, no one ever visited his shop. He used to shout "Wisdom for sale at a reasonable price. Come buy wisdom."

One day hearing this, Budhu, the foolish son of a rich merchant went to chatur and said, " Give me a rupee worth of wisdom". Chatur quickly scribbled some thing and gave it to Buddhu, which he showed to his father. The father said "You fool, fancy paying a rupee for this nonsense! Who is he that cheated you?" Then he stomped to chatur's shop and said, "You Rogue, give me my money back. You've cheated my son. He is a fool and you are a cheat."

Chatur replied "If you don't like my goods, return them, and you can have your money back. But you'll have to sign this document. It says that your son will never use my advice and he'll always stand and watch people fighting." When the merchant signed it, Chatur returned him the money and the deal was off.

In the same market, there was a bitter quarrel going on between the maids of the King's two Queens. The two queens were sworn rivals of each other, and so were their maids. Buddu happened to pass by, and thought that according to the contract with Chatur, it became his duty to watch the fight. The two maids came to blows and Buddhu kept looking on with interest. After a few more blows they saw Buddhu. Both wanted Buddhu to be the witness. But he refused and walked away. So he received two notices from the King's court. Both the Queens wanted him to be their witness and both threatened him to beatup if he did not support them.

So Buddu and his father went to Chatur. After hearing their problem Chatur demanded Rs. Five hundred for his advice. The merchant had no other choice but to pay him. Chatur advised

Budhu to act like a mad man in the court, which he did perfectly well, so the king and his courtiers closed the case.

But the merchant was worried because if the King found out that Buddhu was perfectly sane, but had pretended that he was mad, then the king will kill both father & son. So again they went to Chatur. He told them to tell the King the whole story, but only when the King was in a good and happy mood. This they did and the King became interested in meeting Chatur. So, Chatur was summoned to the King's court. The King talked to Chatur and was impressed. So he bought "wisdom" for a lakh of rupees. Chatur wrote on a paper "Think deeply before you do anything". The King liked this and started acting accordingly on every matter.

The King's Prime Minister wanted to kill the king and take over the throne. Once, when the king fell ill the PM bribed handsomely the Vaidyaraj and asked him to put poison in the King's medicine. The Vaidyaraj unwillingly did. But when the King started thinking deeply before drinking the medicine the Vaidyaraj got nervous and thought that the King was suspecting him. So, he fell at the King's feet saying "Sire, please forgive me. I am a poor man. It was the Prime Minister who asked me to poison you. The King put the PM into the prison and made Chatur his Prime Minister saying "Your wisdom saved my life." Thus Chatur got a reward for his witness and wisdom.

Morel : Brain is better than Brawn.

In a Botany class the teacher asked
" When is the best time to pick apples ?

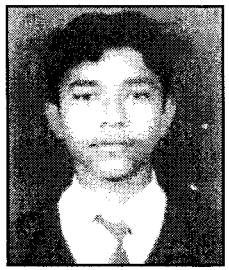
A boy answered " When the farmer is sleeping"

Teacher : "What is a bulldozer"

Student : "It is a bull which is sleeping

A boy in an examination hall removed his shirt, pant and baniyan and started writing. Why ?

Because the question was Answer in brief only.



Name: Sajit S. Shaikh

School: G.H.K. High School

STD: IX A

The Mouse and the Bull

One day, when a little mouse came out of its hole in a tree, it saw a big bull sleeping in the shade of the tree. The bull was snoring loudly. The mouse curiously went near the nose of the bull and bit it just for fun.

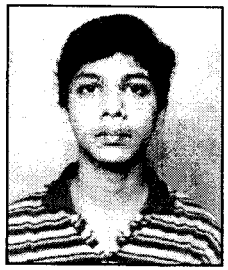
The bull woke up and bellowed with pain. The mouse began to run away frightened. The bull chased it with all his might. The mouse scampered hurriedly along the ground and managed to get away. The bull, however did not give up the chase. So the mouse ran into a hole in a wall. Now, the bull couldn't reach it.

But the bull was determined to punish the mouse. He angrily shouted, "You small wretch, I'll teach you a lesson for biting a mighty bull." And he dashed his head against the wall. The bull was strong, but so was the wall. It did not break or give way but hurt the bull's head. The mouse saw the misfortune of the bull and mocked at him, "Stupid fellow, why are you breaking your head just for nothing? You big strong fellows don't always have every thing your own way."

The bull still did not like to let the mouse go unpunished. He also felt humiliated. But, at the same time, he realized the truth in the statement of the mouse and went away silently.

The words of the mouse were still ringing in his ears. "You big strong fellows don't always have every thing your own way."

Moral: Might is not always right



Name: Reuben Mascharenhas

School: St. Joseh's School, Juhu

STD: IX A

A Lession to Learn

Rahul, Ramesh, Ravi, Abdul and Sarita were class mates and friends. They were in Std. IX. They were good in studies. Not only that; they were in the forefront in any function whether it was in dancing or dramatics. What is more, they were very fond of their teachers, and obeyed and respected them at all times.

On Teacher's Day they put up a play in order to teach a lesson to the students who show disrespect to teachers.

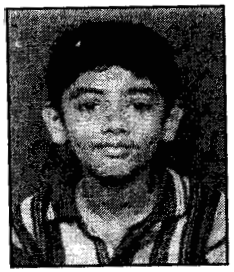
Unfortunately, in the play, they used the kind of language used by rowdy and rebellious students. The Principal and the teachers were shocked by this, and stopped the play before Rahul's group had a chance to show the moral of the story.

There was utter confusion in the Principal's room when he threatened to debar them from school for a week. Then, Rahul, who was normally their spokesman, apologised profusely. And also showed him the script where the 'students' in the play were 'debarred from school' for using the undesirable words and phrases they had used in the opening scene. The play was to end happily when the 'students' realised their mistakes and apologized to the teachers and turned over a new leaf.

When the explanation were over, the Principal felt he had wronged the children. Nevertheless, he told them to avoid using that kind of language, even in a play, because it was unpleasant and impolite.

Rahul and his friends too realised that they had acted in haste. But all was well, in the end.

Moral : Do not act without thinking of the consequences



Name: Rishab Doshi

School: Greenlawns High School

STD: VII B

The Honest Wood Cutter

A poor wood cutter worked hard to support his wife and children. He was once cutting a branch of a tree that grew on the bank of a river when the axe suddenly slipped and fell into the water. Though he tried hard, he just could not find it.

He was worried that he would be unable to earn a living without his axe. So he sat on the river bank with his head in his hands.

Suddenly, he saw the River Goddess emerge from the water. She asked him for the reason of his sorrow and he explained how he had lost his axe.

Promising to restore his axe, she dived into the river and emerged with a golden axe. But he refused to take it as that was not the one he had lost. She dived again and brought a silver axe. But he refused that one, as well, for the same reason.

Finally, she emerged with his simple axe which he gladly accepted.

The Goddess was so pleased with his honesty that she presented him with the golden and silver axes that she had brought from the bottom of the river.

From that day, the woodcutter flourished. He and his family lived happily ever after.

Moral : Honesty is the best policy.